

John 6 (pt 1) - Jesus Probes Our Faith

The feeding of the 5000 is the only miracle that is written about in each of the 4 gospels

- So there are definitely truths that He wants us to comprehend from this story

Jesus intervenes into our normal and somewhat ordinary lives

Joh 6:1-71 ESV After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 And a large crowd was following him, **because they saw the signs that he was doing** on the sick.

God uses our choices & decisions for his purposes

- **At first they were coming because of signs** - Vs 2 "Because they saw the signs he was doing on the sick"
- **Later because he met a need** - Joh 6:26 ESV Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.
- **All the while he is leading them to the place of making a decision to believe him so as to receive eternal life** - Joh 6:27 ESV Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.

Human Choice and God's Sovereignty

There are extremes in this belief

- (1) God does everything and man has no part
- (2) Man does everything and God is a bystander (not even certain what the future holds)

God is Sovereign and completely in control and his purpose will stand, yet he never infringes upon the free will of man. Somehow He is able to use it and weave it into his beautiful plan.

- Pro 16:9 ESV The **heart of man** plans his way, **but the LORD** establishes his steps.

Jesus is always teaching us | testing us | probing us

Joh 6:3-21 ESV Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. 5 Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, **Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?"** 6 **He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.**

- Why didn't he just grab the loaves and fish and multiply them? What was he probing for?
- How does the LORD TEST us? - trials, the word, experiences
- What is the LORD doing in your life?...What is He teaching you?...What is He showing you?

- Mat 11:29 ESV Take my yoke upon you, and **learn from me...**
- 1Jn 2:27 ESV But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as **his anointing teaches you** about everything...

- Deu 8:2 ESV And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.
- Jas 1:2-3 ESV Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the **testing of your faith produces steadfastness.**
- Disciples argued on the road about who was greatest, Jesus taught them about true greatness

Jesus is not limited by the limitations we see

7 **Philip** answered him, "*Two hundred denarii would not buy enough* bread for each of them to get a little." 8 One of his disciples, **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but *what are they for so many?*" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.

HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO...BUT We don't know what the LORD is going to do - and we tend to see the lack, the obstacle, the roadblock, the impossibility.

- **Philip** - "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for **each of them to get a little.**"
 - Over ½ years wages
 - For each to have a little - even if we COULD feed them they would still be hungry
- **Andrew** - "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but **what are they for so many?**"

Jesus works with what we have

11 **Jesus then took the loaves**, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. **So also the fish, as much as they wanted.** 12 *And when they had eaten their fill*, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." 13 So they gathered them up and *filled twelve baskets with fragments* from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" 15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

It was a day like any other day...

- He took a lunch of 5 loaves and 2 fish and joined the crowd following Jesus
- Who knew that on that day, Jesus would NEED what he had to feed everyone
- Like Andrew - WHAT ARE THEY FOR SO MANY - we note are lack
- When we give what we have to Jesus - HE PERFORMS THE MIRACLE
- How many amazing things have NOT been done because we were unwilling to give him what we have (Moses, what is in your hand? Stretch it over the sea)

Then the intervention of the dunamis of God happens on a typical day, in a typical setting

- We live in time and space, with laws and limitations - we tend to forget that our God is not bound by these - so we focus on the laws and limitations and sometimes we need to

remember just who our LORD is. There are times when the LORD intervenes in our world with its laws and limitations and performs a miracle, a sign, a wonder

- changing water into wine
- healing a lame man
- walking on water
- raising a dead person to life
- splitting the Red Sea
- Having a baby when you are 100 years old
- Let us believe that even in the limitations, when something appears to be impossible, our LORD loves to work

Jesus is an extravagant giver

- **Philip** - seemed impossible for even "Each to have a little"
- **Jesus** - When they were filled - they gathered up 12 baskets of fragments

Jesus continues to teach us to have faith in Him

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, 17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. 18 The **sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.** 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. 20 But he said to them, "**It is I; do not be afraid.**" 21 Then they were **glad to take him into the boat,** and ***immediately*** the boat was at the land to which they were going.

- Feeding the 5000 was an amazing miracle
- Yet the LORD continues to reinforce His power
- Walking on water, IMMEDIATELY on the land

Summary

- What is the LORD teaching you?
- I think that in every circumstance, trial, etc...there is a learning that can take place
- Believe that the LORD can intervene even when the circumstances seem impossible
- GIVE whatever you have to him
 - A few fish
 - A shepherd's rod
 - Once you place it in His hands --- DUNAMIS
- Ultimately He wants us to SEE HIM AS HE IS, and NOT LIMIT HIM by our unbelief
- It's not that we need to try to make something happen, he already knows what he wants to do