

A stylized graphic of a man's head in profile, facing left. The head is filled with a light blue color and contains a white cross. A white path winds through the head, starting from the bottom and going up towards the cross. The background is a dark blue gradient.

John 6:1-15

His Best Friend's Gospel

Feeding the 5000





6 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. ³ 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.

John 6:1–15

ESV



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. ⁷ Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough 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. 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's easy to look on what we don't have... But we need to remember what we do have.

- Seeing the crowd, the disciples are understandably overwhelmed.
- Jesus asks Phillip what they should do to feed the crowd to “test” him.
- Phillip notes it will take about 8 months salary to feed them.
- Andrew adds that all they have is one boys meager bagged lunch.



- This is not at “test” they failed. Jesus was using this to deliberately highlight the impossibility of the situation.
- Inteds to focus them on the more important truth — what they *do* have.
- Jesus is there with them. He has already proven his ability to overcome the impossible, and wants his disciples to trust him.



Jesus doesn't always give us what we want, but always provides what we need.

- Begins by having everyone “sit down”. Easy to overlook, but very significant in that culture, time, and space.
- In Jewish culture this is a sign that it's *time for a lesson*.
- Jesus understands what they really need. he's about to feed them physically. But even more importantly, he's setting them up to be fed spiritually.



In miraculously multiplying food, Jesus is not only meeting their *felt* need, the need for a meal, but providing for them what they *actually* need even more deeply — a profound and transformative revelation of their need for a saviour, and encounter with him.



Whatever you have is sufficient in Jesus hands

- Andrew's instinct is to minimize what the boy has. But Jesus doesn't do this.
- Could have easily provided in some other way, but takes what the boy has — simple though it is — and multiplies it.
- Easy to feel unequipped for the task, or like we don't have what it takes. But placed it in Jesus hands, he can use that to do do incredible things.... to meet the needs far beyond our own ability and capacity.



Everyone is Satisfied.

- Bread and fish is an inherently satisfying meal — it's a paupers lunch. We often crave variety to be filled and satisfied.
- Each person eats as much as they like, and until full.
- Five (hē ן) represents the word of God — the penteteuch — two (bet ך) represents the house, gathering, or sanctuary of God's people.
- When we gather together, to feast upon his word, and share it with others, there we will truly be filled. We don't need anything more to be satisfied.



Nothing Is Wasted — A basket for each disciple

- When all is said and done, each disciple gathers a basket of leftovers.
- Proves this is a true creative miracle.
- Ensures that those who have given up everything to follow Christ are provided for.
- Nothing is wasted — that which is given is used precisely to fulfil His purposes.



It's okay to place our own plans on hold, as we seek to fulfill his.

- Jesus intention was to retire to a quiet place to relax and refresh after a time of fruitful ministry — healing and ministering to the people.
- It's okay to relax and refresh.
- But he is ready to put this on hold — temporarily — when an opportunity to share the truth presents itself.
- Jesus *happily* and *willingly* takes a detour from his own plan to ensure he had the opportunity to do the work laid out for him by the father.
- We must be ready to do the same.

