

THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

CHAPTER 6:1-14

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Serving with Jesus”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Serving, Ministry, Ministers

The Summation Sentence

The Only Miracle that Appears in all Four Gospels

This miracle is found recorded in all four gospels giving us a quad-visual look into one of the most well-known acts of mercy in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Feeding of the 5,000 is Well Known

But why all 4 gospels?

Is there more that God is desiring to teach us here than just the fact that He can meet the need or produce the goods or pay the bills

John 6:1-14

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. 3 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. 4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip,

"Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" 10 Then Jesus said, **"Make the people sit down."** Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, **"Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost."** 13 Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Serving with Jesus Christ

1.) *Developing our hearts of service*

vv. 1-3

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. 3 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.

Developing our hearts of service

a.) *by placing us in the midst of ministry*

v.1

After these things
Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.

After these things

Approximately 1 year since chapter 5:47

Things that Happen Before ministry

Opportunities Arise

The sooner you learn this, the more effective Christian you'll become
And the happier you'll be And I Mean Happy

The Things That Prepare us for Ministry
Are not always comfortable, but often unpredictable

The Events of Our Lives

Were they dark and dangerous days? Were they years filled with abuse and fear?
Were they times that you couldn't wait to go away...?

Good, Great
- Jesus Loves Those Kind of Restoration Projects

“Aren't We All a Piece a Work” From Our Experiences We Can Relate to Others

Verse 1

**Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee,
which is the Sea of Tiberias.
The Ministry's INFLUENCE
begins to enlarge
Developing our hearts of service**

b.) by gathering us together v.2

Then a great multitude followed Him, **because** they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.

**Does Jesus Want to be Followed
because of the Miracles and Signs which He does? -
No!**

Matthew 16:4

"for a wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign... Why - - Because it takes no faith to **see** a sign.

There are those who follow Jesus
for the wrong reasons & wrong motives

Developing our hearts of service

c.) *by exposing us to the need*

v.3

And Jesus went up on the mountain,
and there He **sat** with His disciples.

**What Do We Know thus Far?
(WE KNOW NOTHING)**

**We know that a great multitude is following after Jesus
We know that they either need a miracle or they want to see a miracle
We know that the disciples are watching the whole thing unfold**

Verse 3

there He **sat** with His disciples

sat with His disciples

**Jesus Hardly Sat
This is a Rare Moment – Take Notice of It!!!**

Luke 2:49

...Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

John 9:4

"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

Jesus is about to teach a course on
Foundations of Christian Ministry

– *Do It!!!*

The Work is About to Show Up

You Don't Have to Go to It – *it's coming to you*

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only...

Being a Disciple Back Then... *and now*

True Ministers who are Called by God
Never Have to Seek Out the Office of Ministry
The Office of Ministry Will Seek Them Out

Serving with Jesus Christ **Developing our hearts of service**

2.) *Creating our eyes of faith*

vv. 4-10

4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "**Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?**" 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" 10 Then Jesus said, "**Make the people sit down.**" Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

a.) *By opening our eyes to the inadequacy*

vv. 4-6

Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "**Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?**" 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.

Human Resources & Ministry at its End

Mark 6:36-40

"Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat." 37 But He answered and said to them, "**You give them something to eat.**" And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?" 38 But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five,

and two fish." 39 Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties.

"You give them something to eat."

(check your pockets, maybe He slipped something in there)

Zechariah 4:6

"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD..."

The Reality of Ministry

Mark 6:35-36

When the day was now **far spent**, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a **deserted place**, and already the hour is late. 36 "**Send them away**, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and **buy** themselves bread; for **they have nothing** to eat."

Ministry Often Seems Impossible

Isaiah 55:1

"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Creating our eyes of faith
by opening our eyes to the inadequacy

b.) by showing us that all things are possible v.7

7 **Philip** answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."

Brother Philip

(the analytical, engineering type of disciple)

\$\$\$ These Numbers Just Don't Figure \$\$\$

There are Philips in every church and every church needs Philips - He's Practical and Predictable
- Stable and reasonable

Philips See the Need

(hey it would be great if...)

They Identify with the Need

(if I were to do something about that situation I would...)

But they do not progress any further...

Jesus, I don't know why you don't do something about that situation.
Look how much better the ministry would be if you just did something
about it

The Work is Huge

It Appears to be Beyond me

We don't have enough money

(money has it's +/- in ministry)

Handing the Baton

Matthew 19:26

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Mark 9:23

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

There's going to be opposition

I Can't do it (so what's your excuse?)

Matthew 25:14-30

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey 16 "Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made

another five talents. 17 "And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 "But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 "He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' 26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

How Great is this Going to Be

The Christian is one who is a wise investor in the things of heaven

!!! I Can't Wait for That Day to Come!!!

Creating our eyes of faith

c.) by expanding our vision of ministry

v.8-10

8 One of His disciples, **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" 10 Then Jesus said, "**Make the people sit down.**" Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

Verse 9

Brother Andrew

"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish..."

I Want to Believe That Jesus Must Have a Moment of Encouragement

But Reality Hit Andrew... ...but what are they among so many?"

The Little Boy
he was the only one ready for the events and journey

What did he have to worry about - he was prepared

Lad 3808 paidarion (pahee-dar'-ee-on);
used only once here. a very small little boy. A child having no
resources or known abilities (3-5 years of age)

"Barley"

was edible for human consumption

"Fish"

a fragment or piece of pickled fish used for animal food

This Little Boy is Poorer Than Poor
As insignificant as it might seem, the fact of the Matter is...
I Need You & You Need Me

Do The Math
Five Fragments of Bread + Two pieces of Fish
+ 5000 men + women + children

Verse 10

10 Then Jesus said, "**Make the people sit down.**"

Jesus Demanded Obedience to His Word
Before The Miracle was to Happen (faith)

The Faith Factor

Make them to sit

Convince Them That Food is Here

Deuteronomy 8:10

"When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

Zechariah 4:10

For who hath despised the day of small things? – I did...

Serving with Jesus Christ

3.) *Enabling our hands to do the work*

vv. 11-14

11 And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "**Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.**" 13 Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

12 baskets full

He Started out with nothing and ended up filled and ready to give out again at a moment's notice

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word! Be **ready in** season and **out** of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

2 Timothy 4:2

to preach the Word of God urgently at all times, whenever you get the chance, in season and out, when it is convenient and when it is not. Correct and rebuke your people when they need it, encourage them to do right, and all the time be feeding them patiently with God's Word.

Enabling our hands to do the work

a.) *by having a mind to serve*

v.11

11 And Jesus took the loaves, and **when He had given thanks**
He distributed them to the disciples,

when He had given thanks

??? for the five loaves & 2 Fish???

Yes aaaand Yes!

When We Are in the Right ATTITUDE

Philippians 2:5-7

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant...

He distributed them to the disciples,

Notice the flow of real ministry

Galatians 5:13

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Enabling our hands to do the work

b.) by believing that the work will be done v.11-12

and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "**Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.**"

John 6:26

...filled.

Enabling our hands to do the work

c.) by enjoying what the Lord has done v.13-14

13 Therefore they gathered them up, and **filled** twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley **loaves which were left over** by those who had eaten. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

“Then those men”

all five thousand of ‘em

loaves which were (left over)

Luke 9:17

So they all ate and were **filled**, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.

Filled grk 5526 chortazo (khor-tad'-zo);

to be gorged with abundance. To be completely satisfied. To be filled to overflowing

My Own Spiritual Satisfaction

Luke 18:29-30

So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, 30 "who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come everlasting life."

When Jesus Ministered He was often misunderstood and criticized. When we serve and minister in Jesus' name we will be misunderstood and criticized.

This Event is about something much more than feeding hungry stomachs

Serving with Jesus Christ

Lord I don't understand everything
Lord I can't do it

But What About My Family
Make Your Son, Your Daughter Your Mission Field
Make Your Wife, Your Husband Your Mission Field

Ephesians 4:11-13

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;