

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

John 6:1-15

Jesus passes the sea of Tiberias (a city in Galilee), and a great crowd began to follow Him because of the miracles He had performed (1-4). With only five loaves, and two fishes from a young boy Jesus feeds five thousand people (5-13). The people recognize Jesus to be the prophet that Moses prophesied would come into the world in Deuteronomy 18:15 (14). The excited attendees to this miracle intend to force Jesus to become their king; but He departs from the crowd by Himself (15).

Read John 6:1-15

v.4 – The Passover feast commemorates the Israelite’s escape from Egypt (Exodus 12) and God’s sustenance of His people in the wilderness. Jesus will sustain this multitude on this mountainside with bread from heaven - both literally and spiritually. In verses 22-35 of this chapter Jesus explains how He is the “*Bread of Life*” (Exodus 16).

v.5 - Philip was from Bethsaida, a town only nine miles away (John 12:21) and would have known where, if any, food could be acquired. By asking for a human solution (knowing there was none), Jesus highlighted the miraculous act He was about to perform.

v.7 – Note the limit of Philip’s faith. Philip immediately assesses the probable cost. Jesus is teaching Philip, and us, that financial resources (or any other measurement) are not the determining factor in ministry. We limit God’s use of us by assuming what is and is not possible. The only possible restriction is the one *we* apply by not giving our whole heart to His work. Look up: Matthew 19:26

v.9- This is a vivid reminder that age is no barrier to Christ. No one is too young or old to serve Him. Look up: 1 Timothy 4:12

What difficulty did Andrew suggest? The Old Testament Scriptures were available to the disciples, as they are to us today (Psalm 102:18). The lessons to be learned from what God can do are to be read and applied to our lives so that we don’t forget, or limit God’s ability. Look up: 2 Kings 4:41-44, Romans 15:4

Mark 12:41-44 tells the story of a poor widow who gives all that she has to the Lord’s work. In God’s eyes this woman gave more than all the others in the temple, even though what she had to offer was seemingly less than the others. The value of a gift is not determined by its amount, but by the spirit in which it is given. A gift given grudgingly or for recognition loses its value. Look up: Matthew 6:2, 2 Corinthians 9:7

v.12-13 – What spiritual principle characterizes the Lord’s provision? Look up: 2 Chronicles 31:10, Psalm 23:5

How does the Lord feel about wasted gifts? Look up: Proverbs 18:9, Matthew 25:22-23

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. – Luke 12:48

v.14 -15 – Of what fact were the men who saw these miracles convinced (Deuteronomy 18:15, John 7:40) ?

The Jews had often suffered by famine in those times while others prevailed over them. Finding Jesus to possess such power they surely thought they could rid themselves of Herod (Mat 14:1-10) and the Romans (John 11:47- 48) if Jesus was proclaimed king. It was not until a considerable time afterwards that even His disciples fully understood that His kingdom was not of this world. Look up: John 18:36