

MIRACLE OF FEEDING THE 5,000 Text: John 6:1–15

With God All Things Are Possible

1. **Theres a Reality TV Show Called ALONE where they drop 10 people off in isolation in the wilderness to fend for themselves....**
 - a. One of the Men about my age said that in total isolation, he literally had a heavy heart
 - b. A Pressure on his chest of an Emotional Emptiness
 - c. He Recognized it from when he was a child growing up in a boys home for orphans
 - d. Every Christmas the boys would gather and gifts would be passed out...
 - e. But every year there were no gifts for him or his brother... no one sent them anything
 - f. And he would go top bed that night w/ a deep sadness and cry himself to sleep
 - g. He Ran away at 15 yrs old and had to find his way by himself
 2. **There is a Longing in Everyone of us to know who our real Father is...**
 - a. A Yearning to Search for our Father in Heaven...
 - b. A Longing be Accepted by Him... and To be Loved by Him
 - (1)Not for our Failures or Achievements which are temporary
 - (2)But Loved because we are His Child
 3. **Christ Came to Earth, to seek for us and save us—
so when we see Him we could see the Father**
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1. JESUS COMPASSION FOR THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE (v.5)

A. JESUS HAD COMPASSION FOR THE PEOPLE GATHERED

1. **Jesus Had Crossed the Sea of Galilee**
 - a) and the people travelled on foot so they could hear Him teach....
2. **He Had Been Teaching For a While and it was getting late
and He knew they were hungry (Mark 6:33–37)**
 - a) **Illustration: I Worked in San Jose with a good man named Raul...**
 - b) His family was from Mexico.... and sometimes they didn't have any food...
 - c) His parents would put the kids to bed w/o dinner and he hated that feeling
 - d) He said he vowed to never make his children to go to bed hungry
3. **Jesus said (Matthew 7:7–12)**

B. OVER AND OVER WE SEE THE COMPASSION OF JESUS

1. **He was moved with compassion and healed their sick (Mt 14:14)**
2. **He had compassion because they were Weary and Scattered (Mt 9:36)**
3. **He had compassion on the crowds because they were hungry (Mt 15:32)**
4. **He had compassion on the widow who lost her only son (Mk 9:22)**
5. **He Wept over Jerusalem, knowing of it's judgement (Lk 19:41)**
6. **He Wept for His friend Lazarus before raising Him from the Dead (Jn 11:35)**
7. **And He Knows You Better Than You Know Yourself!**

2. GOD CHALLENGES FAITH TO MAKE IT STRONGER (v.5–7)

A. JESUS ASKS PHILIP A QUESTION TO CHALLENGE HIS FAITH

1. How Are We Going to Buy Bread for All these People?

- a) Philip is immediately doing mental calculations to figure it out
- b) He says: Even a half a years worth of wages could only give everyone a single bite!

2. But Jesus Didn't Ask Him for the Math—Asked Him to Test Him! WHY?

B. WHEN OUR FAITH IS TESTED—IT BECOMES STRONGER

1. Greek word Test: Peirasmos

- a) **Peirasmos is trial or testing** directed towards an end, and the end is that anyone who is tested should emerge stronger and purer from the experience.
 - (1) For example, a young bird is said to test its wings.
 - (2) The Queen of Sheba travelled to **test** the wisdom of Solomon (1 Kings 10:1).
 - (3) God **tested** Abraham, when he asked for the sacrifice of Isaac (Gen 22:1).

2. James Explains What Testing Does for Us... (James 1:2-4)

- a) Testing produces Patience (Hupomone)
- b) Not Just the Ability to Suffer and Bear Things...But to Conquer them through Faith
- c) To Make You Perfect... Complete... Lacking Nothing

3. We Shouldn't Be Surprised by Faith Tests no matter where they come from

“There will be the test of the sorrows and the disappointments which seek to take our faith away. There will be the test of the seductions which seek to lure us from the right way. There will be the tests of the dangers, the sacrifices and the unpopularity which are so much a part of the Christian way. But they are not meant to make us fall; they are meant to make us soar. They are not meant to defeat us; they are meant to be defeated. They are not meant to make us weaker; they are meant to make us stronger.” (Barclay)

3. WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE (v.5–7)

A. “We Only Have Five Loaves and Two Fish!”

— WHAT WERE THEY FORGETTING?

1. They Were Leaving God Out of the Picture!

- a) He Created the Universe! He Created the Stars and Galaxies...
- b) HE Created the Human Body with all it's complexity...

2. But He's Forgotten as Soon as the Next Crisis Hits!

B. BY OURSELVES—VICTORY OVER OUR TRIALS IS IMPOSSIBLE

—BUT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!

1. Romans 7: Describes the Despair of Fighting our battles alone

- a) What I Don't Want to Do — I Do > What I Want to Do – I Don't Do...
- b) Who Will Save Me from this Body of Death?

2. Romans 8: We Are More than Conquerors Through Him Who Loves Us!

- a) What Changed? **OUR WAY Won't Work! — GOD'S WAY Works!**

4. EVEN A LITTLE IS MUCH WITH GOD (v.8–10)

A. FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH...

1. Only Five Loaves—and Barley Loaves at that!

a) Barley bread was a peasant bread that the poor ate

2. Only 2 fish! How Far will that go?

a) *Someone said, the 1st miracle here is the young boy hadn't already eaten his lunch!*

b) I've heard of mothers adding more water to the soup to make to go farther but this is 5,000 men plus women and children!

3. Jesus Takes This Little Portion and Creates an Abundant Miracle

B. EVEN A LITTLE IS MUCH WITH GOD!

1. Even Faith the Size of a Mustard Seed Can Move Mountains

2. Even the prayers of a Little Child — Delights the Lord!

3. Even a Little Love — Can Change a Marriage, or Family or Life!

4. Even the Smallest Step in the Right Direction—can be the Biggest Step of Your Life

5. EVERY GOOD GIFT IS FROM ABOVE (v.11)

A. NOTICE THAT JESUS GIVES THANKS TO THE FATHER ABOVE

1. A Meager Portion of Five Loaves and Two Fish—and Jesus gives thanks

a) *[IMAGE]: There is a Painting I've seen that I never understood...*

b) *An old man sitting for a meal—but the meal is only a loaf of bread*

c) *I Never understood the symbolism—until I realized He is giving thanks*

d) *He is thanking God for his portion of Daily Peasant Bread*

B. HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED...?

1. That THANKFUL People are HAPPIER People?

And UNTHANKFUL PEOPLE ARE NEVER HAPPY?

a) Thankful people have a sense of appreciation

b) Unthankful people have a sense of entitlement

2. Ultimately, a thankful heart is the only offering God receives.

a) God is not impressed by the possessions we've amassed. He already owns them all!

b) He is not in awe of the position we've achieved. He infinitely excels it!

c) What God most desires is "our humble, thankful hearts".

d) So, let us "offer to God a sacrifice of thanks!" (Psalm 50:14).

3. Every Good Gift if from God (**James 1:17**)

6. GOD ENLISTS OUR HELP SHARE HIS GIFTS (v.11)

A. DID YOU NOTICE THAT JESUS ASKED HIS DISCIPLES TO HELP?

1. Jesus Gave them a Part to Play in this Miracle
2. He Gave the Servants a Part to Play When He Turned Water to Wine
3. He Gave the them a part to play when He told them “Take Away the Stone”
 - a) At the tomb of Lazarus...

B. JESUS ENLISTS OUR HELP SHARE HIS GIFTS TODAY...

1. WE SHARE THE GIFT OF THE GOSPEL
2. WE SHARE THE GIFT OF HIS LOVE
3. WE SHARE THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

“What I envy most about you Christians is your forgiveness,
I have no one to forgive me.” —Secular Humanist Marghanita Laski

—Jesus said—It is more blessed to Give than Receive! (Including forgiveness!)

7. GOD PROVIDES EVEN MORE THAN WE NEED (v.12–13)

A. NOTICE WHAT JESUS DID

1. THEY ALL ATE AND WERE ALL FILLED!
2. THEWN THEY COLLECTED 12 BASKETS OF LEFT OVERS!
3. THERE WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH—BUT THEY LEFT NO WASTE

B. GOD PROVIDES EVEN MORE THAN WE NEED

1. **Pressed Down and Overflowing... (Luke 6:38)**
 - a) God Doesn't Only Give Us the Bare Necessity—
 - b) He Blesses Us With More than We Even Need!
 2. **(Eph. 3:20) He is Able to Do Far More than We Can Ask or Even Imagine!**
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8. EVEN GOD'S GIFTS CAN BE USED FOR WRONG REASONS

A. NOTICE THIER REACTION (v.14-15)

1. **Although They Were Amazed, they Wanted to Take Jesus By FORCE to Make Him a King!**
 - a) Many Times Jesus Healed Someone and told them NOT to tell anyone.
 - b) Why? It Would Attract Crowds Who Wanted to USE Jesus for own Selfish Ambition.
2. **WHY FORCE JESUS TO BE KING?**
 - a) If Jesus Can Miraculously Feed Over 5,000 People...
 - b) He Can Feed an Army and We Can March on Rome
 - c) We Can Overthrow Our Slave Masters
 - d) And Become the Super Power Nation God Intended for us to be!

B. IT EVEN HAPPENS TODAY...

1. People Want to Use Jesus For Their Own Agenda

- a) **A Marxist Jesus**—to fit their Marxist Liberation Theology
- b) **A Feminist Jesus** for their Gender Theology
- c) **A Unitarian Jesus** Who' is Forced to Accept Everybody and Anything
- d) **A Pre-Millennial Jesus** who will Ruling from a Throne in Jerusalem

—So Israel Can Be a Super Power Nation Today

2. But NO ONE Can Serve TWO MASTERS...

- a) This Was the Tragedy of Judas: He Tried to Serve God and Money...God & SELF...

3. This is the Tragedy of People Who Think They Know Better than God!

- a) They REFUSE to Accept Jesus for Who He Is—
and Try to Make Jesus what they Wanted Him to Be.

—It is Not Jesus Who Can Be Changed By Us—

—it is Us Who Must Be Changed By Jesus!

9. ALL WE NEED IS SUPPLIED BY CHRIST

A. ALL WE NEED IS SUPPLIED BY CHRIST (Philippians 4:18)

- 1. **PHYSICALLY**—He Holds All Things Together by the Word of His Power
- 2. **EMOTIONALLY**—He is the Great Physician and Wonderful Counselor
"Cast your anxiety on Him for He cares for you"
- 3. **SPIRITUALLY**—He died on the Cross to Pay Our Debt in Full
- 4. **ETERNALLY**—Jesus said: **In My Fathers House are Many Mansions...**

I Go to Prepare a Place for You

B. JESUS CAME SO WE COULD HAVE LIFE... (John 10:10)

- 1. A New Life ...
- 2. An Abundant Life...
- 3. An Eternal Life!

CONCLUSION:

1. With Man this is Impossible—With God All Things Are Possible!

- a. If We Truly Realized His Majesty and Power...

Holding the Entire Universe Together by the Word of His Power

- b. If We Truly Comprehended His Perfect Holiness and Perfect Love...

The day would come when we no longer ask for things...

and We Would Simply ask for God Himself

2. Jesus is the Bread of Life and Source of Living Water (John 6:35)

The Work of Christ was Much Greater than Physical Feeding or Even Healing

It was His work at the Cross — for Spiritual & Eternal Life and Healing