John 6 A Boys Lunch

John 6:1-15

This miracle of Jesus is found in all four gospels. It teaches us that Jesus cares and loves us and that He supplies all of our need as persons. He leads us to John 6:35 which reads:

**John 6:35 (NIV)**
Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

What Jesus did with the boys lunch is incredible – leaving twelve baskets full of food. It looks like Jesus left one basket for each of the twelve disciples! The miracle of the feeding of the 5000 shows us that the Lord can take even what little we have and make into something which counts for Him and His Kingdom.

**John 6:1 (NIV)**
Sometime after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias),

We see in John 5 that Jesus had healed a man who could not walk. Jesus simply commanded the fellow to “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” The man was cured right away. Then in the remainder of John 5 Jesus gives a personal testimony of who He was.

No doubt we can study John’s gospel and all the “I AM” passages and learn more a bought who Jesus is!

Then Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. This was about nine miles – and Jesus of course went by foot and the crowd followed Him.

**John 6:2 (NIV)**
and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick.

Miracles are defined as extraordinary work that the Lord does. Miracles authenticate who Jesus is and they connect us to God the Father. Miracles are called “signs” in the Bible. Some Christians have the Holy Spirit gift of miracles and I am totally at this time not knowing what that gift is about: I am thinking that all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are available to all Christians – AS THE HOLY SPIRIT DETERMINES!

The first miracle Jesus did was to change water into wine at the marriage of Cana. By the way, Jesus reinstituted marriage here. The first marriage was ordained by the Lord in the Garden of Eden. John writes about signs in John 2:11:

**John 2:11 (NIV)**
This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

**John 6:3 (NIV)**
Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples.

This miracle of feeding the 5000 takes place one year before Jesus would enter Jerusalem. It also takes place after the death of John the Baptist. Then there were these people who were following Him just to see Jesus do various “signs” as if they wanted to be entertained! Still Jesus was concerned about the followers. And He knew what hunger was all about as He had fasted 40 days and nights as we learn in Matthew.

**John 6:4 (NIV)**
The Jewish Passover Feast was near. (We remember when the angel of death passed over all the doorposts in Israel which had the blood of a lamb painted on them – all pointing to the shed blood of Jesus on the cross.)

Jesus was tired and weary. And because the Passover was about to be celebrated, there were many people on their way to Jerusalem. So, Jesus took His disciples and went up to a mountain. The Sea of Galilee was surrounded by mountains and we do not know the name of the mountain.

**John 6:5 (NIV)**

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

**John 6:6 (NIV)**
He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

Jesus was talking to Phillip. Phillip lived on the Sea of Galilee. He was a true evangelist. In John 1:43-48 we learn that Phillip had brought Nathanael to the Lord. He was also selected as a Deacon in Acts 6:5. He had four daughters who had the gift of prophecy (gift of sharing the gospel) as we see in Acts 21:8, 9. He also led where he was used by the Lord in the life of the Ethiopian Eunuch. He was miraculously moved to another opportunity to witness and flew away to that opportunity.

**John 6:7 (NIV)**
Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

Philip was pessimistic – He knew that the disciples did could not go into town and buy food. He was seemingly practical too but must have understood the concern Jesus had for those who were following Him.

A pessimistic faith does not know the power of God. It does not recognize that God is sovereign. A pessimistic faith sees only what human resources can provide. When confronted by some kind of a need, pessimistic people see things as hopeless. When we are pessimistic we do not see the Lord and we do not understand what God can do in whatever we face.

We are thinking like the world.

**John 6:8 (NIV)**
Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,

**John 6:9 (NIV)**
Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Here Andrew shows his pessimistic spirit. These men were not fully committed to Jesus and did not yet fully realize who Jesus was and what power He had – even though the saw many if not all the miracles Jesus had done. They had no excuse for being pessimistic! And we do not have an excuse either for being pessimistic.

Andrew evidently saw Jesus concern. And he had surveyed the crowd of people and found the boy with the five barley loaves and the two small fish. The loaves were really small and the fish were the size of sardines. Andrew was also a soul winner and must have gotten close enough to the boy to witness for the Lord. We could possibly see this boy when we get to Heaven!

Reminds me of us when we get pessimistic and fail the Lord to recognize His almighty power and authority. All things are possible with the Lord and all things are possible for us who agree with the Lord. All things! We are often pessimistic and have trouble leaving things with the Lord. If we are not filled and following the Holy Spirit, we will live by the flesh – the old nature.

**Romans 8:5-6 (NIV)**
Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.
The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

**John 6:10 (NIV)**

 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them.

**John 6:11 (NIV)**
Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated **as much as they wanted**. He did the same with the fish. It looks to me that Jesus gave them all they needed – wanted and needed.

**John 6:12-13 (NIV)**
When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."
So they gathered them and **filled twelve baskets** with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

We do not know how many baskets of food the crowd ate – so we can conclude that since all were satisfied – Jesus produced a lot more bread and fish. And, we can conclude that the Lord provides abundantly for us in everything.

Barley bread was the bread of the poor. It was the cheapest bread that could be bought. The bread was nothing special. Andrew was not as pessimistic as Philp. He mentioned them to Jesus.

Now the boy allowed Jesus to take his lunch – the lunch his mother had sent with him – he gave it to Jesus! He had a smart mother in providing for her son’s well-being and she was raising a smart boy. He had to be a believer in Jesus. And the boy must have understood something of the power of Jesus to do a lot more than the human mind can think of doing!

It had to be thrilling for the boy to see his small lunch turned into enough food to serve the 5000 who had gathered. And to have 12 baskets left over – It would have been fun and interesting when he went home to tell his mother! And it is fun and interesting when we see the Lord at work in our hearts and minds and in the hearts and minds of others! We can praise the Lord!

**John 6:12 (NIV)**
When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."

Jesus shows us not to waste His gifts to us. The Jew was taught not to squander food. Jesus did not throw anything away. Food is meant to be used to sustain life. The bread and the fish were gifts of the Savior. And we can apply this to ourselves.

He has given much to us – Some think they must be on the Lord’s side because they have so much. For some this is hardly the truth. What we have does not mean we are on the Lord’s side and that we are on the right track. The rain falls on the just and the unjust. The crowds here recognized Jesus as a Prophet.

**John 6:14 (NIV)**

After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

**John 6:15 (NIV)**
Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king **by force**, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Jesus had turned this down when He was tempted or tested by Satan. In no way could Jesus be tempted by Satan then or during this happening. He always put Satan in place. Jesus refused their idea of making Him an earthly king. He knew it all would be His and that all things will be under His feet, under His rule.

The crowd did not have a believing spirit – unless it was the little boy – they were not in touch with Jesus – they were well fed – but eternally lost. Hell bound.

There were those, however, that did understand Who Jesus was and they saw His caring a loving heart – even to supply food for the crowd.

**John 11:42 (NIV)**
I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

In Jesus there is grace abundant – more grace that covers all our sins. And He wants others to share it – like one basket for each of the disciples to take to others who were not there or to share with those who needed another meal.

In John we see why Jesus came:

1. He came in His Father’s Name:

**John 5:43 (NIV)** I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.

1. Jesus came not to do His will but the Father’s will”

**John 6:38 (NIV)**
For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

1. He came for judgment:

**John 9:39 (NIV)**
Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

1. Jesus came to give abundant Life:

**John 10:10 (NIV)**
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

1. Jesus came so people would not walk in darkness but in the Light.

**Luke 12:46 (NIV)**
The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

1. Jesus came to tell people the truth:

**John 18:37 (NIV)**
You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

1. Jesus came to call sinners to repentance:

**Matthew 9:13 (NIV)**
But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."