

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 18TH - 19TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

## HOW WILL THEY EAT? (JOHN 6:1-9) THE SIGNS DREW A CROWD

After Jesus leaves Jerusalem, He travels across the Sea of Galilee to an area near Bethsaida, and a large crowd follows Him because they "saw the signs He was performing."

- On the side of a mountain, Jesus sits down with His disciples and notices the large crowd coming toward them.

## THE WRONG REASONS

The crowd was probably around 10-15,000 people (they only counted men). The reason many came was because of the miracles and they were physically hungry.

- **Though our physical needs matter to Christ, He is more concerned about spiritual hunger and our eternity.**

## THIS BEGS THE QUESTION OF WHY WE ARE HERE

It is okay for us to express and pray for God to meet our daily needs, but **we must make sure that ultimately our goal is to grow closer to Him and give Him honor.**

- **Why are we here today? Are we here to find answers to the big questions in life or just to see a show and get a quick fix?**

## EVEN IN OUR SELFISHNESS, JESUS LOVES US

Notice, Jesus asked the disciples, "Where will we buy bread so that these people can eat?" when He already knew their hearts and how everything was going to unfold.

- Mark 6:34 says, "Jesus had compassion" on the people who came to see Him. **Even in our low times, Jesus wants to take care of us.**

## VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE

Philip's response to Jesus' question shows how big of a problem it would be to feed the crowd. 200 denarii was equivalent to about \$50,000 today.

- Andrew notices a boy has two fish (opsarion, sardines) and five loaves of bread, but that couldn't feed many people.

## "YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT" (MATTHEW 14:16)

In Matthew, Jesus tells the disciples to take care of the hungry crowd. Of course, they would not be able to serve the people without His help and guidance.

- **We are also called to act, but to know that we cannot change people/situations without Christ!**

## SELFISH MOTIVES (JOHN 6:10-15)

### "HAVE THE PEOPLE SIT DOWN."

After the people sat, Jesus took the bread and fish, blessed them, and then He and the 12 distributed the food. Jesus **took something small and insignificant and made a huge impact!**

- **This miracle teaches us an important lesson about God's love and His desire to do something amazing in our lives.**

## WHY DID JESUS PERFORM THIS MIRACLE?

First, we see that Jesus is sufficient for any need, even when His disciples are confused.

Second, this miracle taught the 12, set up a sermon for the crowd, and fed the needy.

- **Every word and action of God has a purpose. We would be wise to ask, "What do you want me to learn at this time?"**

## "... SO THAT NOTHING IS WASTED"

When everyone was full, Jesus told the disciples to gather the leftovers "so nothing is wasted." Why?

- 12 baskets is significant of the 12 tribe's needs being met, **abundance shows God's desire to be more than enough for us, and Jesus produces "food" that endures forever.**

## WHAT IF OUR NEEDS AREN'T ALWAYS MET?

We're called to seek God's Kingdom first and trust in His provision (Matthew 6:33), but how are we to react when our needs are not met?

- We must exercise our faith and remember that this life is temporary, and we all have an appointed time to pass. **Our greatest needs are spiritual and eternal.**

## THEY WANTED HIM FOR THE WRONG REASONS

The people wanted to "take [Jesus] by force" **to make Him a king because of the physical provision, not the message He delivered.** They also wanted Jesus to be a political king, which was not why He came.

- **When we worship Jesus out of selfish gain, we are falsely worshiping Him.**

## FAITH & FEAR (JOHN 6:16-21)

### ON THE WAY BACK TO CAPERNAUM...

After Jesus and the 12 left the feeding of the massive crowd, the 12 went by boat across the sea to meet Jesus after His alone time.

- Several of the 12 were experienced fishermen who had traveled this path many times, but it was dark, and the "high wind arose, and the sea began to churn."

## IN THE MIDDLE OF A DEEP DARK SEA

The Sea of Galilee is about 7 miles from east to west and can get up to 150 feet deep. Even after seeing many miraculous works, these men found themselves scared.

- **Jesus knew they had problems with fear and faith. This is why this scenario was pre-destined to happen: to teach them to trust.**

## WALKING ON WATER

In the middle of chaos and fear, the disciples see Jesus walking on the sea. **The imagery of Jesus standing firm on and around everything that is dark and unstable encapsulates just how vital knowing Jesus is!**

- **We must be anchored to Jesus and the Word or we will drown in hopelessness. "LORD IF IT'S YOU..." (MATTHEW 14:28-32)**

Matthew records that Peter calls out to Jesus and asks Him to "command me to come to You" because he wants to be sure it is Jesus. After Peter also walks on water, he starts to sink when he takes his eyes off Jesus.

- **The lesson is simple and clear: we sink when we take our eyes off of Jesus.**

## "THEY WERE WILLING TO TAKE HIM ON BOARD"

The reason the storm was calmed and stability overcame fear was because the disciples invited Jesus in and trusted Him after hearing His voice.

- **If we're to be fulfilled and at peace, Jesus must be invited into every corner of our lives, especially the most turbulent ones!**

## "AT ONCE"

We need to be careful not to casually pass over the fact that there was an **immediate change in location and atmosphere** once Jesus was invited into the boat.

- **When Jesus is invited in, how we live, where we go, and what we do starts to change, and it is for the better.**

## HOW WILL WE EAT?

- We can only "eat" by the provision and power of God. This is activated by **humility, faith, and trust in Jesus in all situations.**
- Others may only be fed if we are willing to take action and engage a hungry world. **Remember, Jesus told His disciples to spiritually and physically feed others.**

## HOW WILL WE NOT DROWN?

- Without an anchor, we sway and shift with every passing turbulence, and life becomes overwhelming.
- **Are we willing to invite Jesus into every corner of our lives? This means when times are good, we don't forget Him, and when times are difficult, we trust Him.**

## BUT WHAT OF OUR MOTIVES?

- **If our only desire in faith is to find comfort and ease in this life, we are missing the point of true faith and we will be disappointed.**
- As we migrate through this vapor of a life, how we think and act sets up our eternal residence. **Is our aspiration to know and be with the Lord?**

## "IT IS I. DON'T BE AFRAID."

- If we're to be fulfilled, at peace, and remain strong throughout the struggles of this life, **we must keep our eyes and minds on Jesus and invite Him "into our boat."**
- **And, if Christ is with us, we have nothing to fear:** not culture, government, war, hunger, death, or even exile.