

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 19TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

BREAD (JOHN 6:1-11)

SAW THE SIGNS...

The crowds following Jesus were growing every time He did something miraculous. They followed Him BECAUSE they saw the signs.

- **The crowd wasn't following to be obedient, and Jesus knew their hearts. So, He took the disciples to a quiet place to teach them without distractions.**

PASSOVER

It's been about a year since chapter 2, and the Passover was near again. Jesus, knowing what He was going to do, started preparing a special meal, and no one saw it coming.

- **This would be a time of remembrance; when God spared the Hebrews in Egypt, delivered them, and provided manna in the wilderness for 40 years.**

WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH...

Jesus asked (rhetorically) where do we get bread? Philip wondered how to pay for it. Andrew only saw what was in front of him.

- **Five to twenty-five thousand people were in need, and Jesus could see everything. How often do we see the problem and never allow ourselves to see Jesus and His plan for our lives?**

PLENTY

There was plenty of grass, so everyone sat down. Jesus blessed the bread and handed it out, along with the fish, until everyone was full.

- **One reason we never see the answer is that we keep looking for it in what we know. When we turn to Jesus for what we need, we will find Him giving us all we need.**

KING (JOHN 6:12-15)

12 BASKETS

After collecting the leftovers, the disciples found themselves with a basket of bread each.

- **Just a few verses ago, these disciples seemed to lack faith and understanding. But they were obedient and served the crowd. Obedience and service always result in full baskets.**

PROPHET AND KING

The crowd had seen the miracle and the way that Jesus spoke with authority. They were correct in seeing Him as the Prophet but they were looking for the wrong type of King.

- **Jesus is the King of Kings, but He didn't come to conquer nations. He came to conquer sin and death. He came to be the Passover Lamb, and they missed it again.**

STORMS (JOHN 6:16-21)

DISTANCE

Jesus had seen the intentions of the crowd and chose to withdraw to a place of solitude as He directed His disciples to go back to Capernaum.

- **He also knew the desires of the crowd could become the desires of His disciples. Knowingly and lovingly, He sent them into a storm to save them from the crowd's mentality.**

FEAR

The storm was powerful and brought the unknown right into their boat. They were afraid of what the storm might do until they saw something that doubled the fear in their hearts.

- **In the middle of their struggling and fear, Jesus walked toward their boat. They were afraid because they didn't expect Him, and when they saw Him, they didn't recognize Him.**

DON'T BE AFRAID

It was dark. They were in a boat in the middle of the lake. A storm was raging around them. They see a figure walking toward them on the water. Of course, they were afraid!

- **At just the right time, Jesus was there. "It is I. Don't be afraid." are the words we all need to hear. Our response should always be to welcome Him into our boat.**

PROVISION

- Many "follow" Christ because of what He can do.
- **Jesus has prepared a life for us with Him.**
- **Turning away from our sinful plans and really following Christ will open our eyes to what He has always done: provide a way to KNOW Him.**

COMPLETE

- We fail when we try to make Jesus in our image and for our purpose.
- **When our faith is weak and our understanding is questionable, we must be strong in obedience and service.**
- **Jesus is our King. He has conquered sin and death as the Passover Lamb for all who will truly follow Him.**

PRESENCE

- Storms will come, and we will be afraid.
- **Even when we don't see Him, Christ is with us, knowing what He will do next.**
- **Storms: Some come because of our sin, and some because of others' sins. All come because God wants us to see Him, invite Him into our boat, and know His peace.**