

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

A Miraculous Feeding
John 6:1-15
May 8, 2022

Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. - John 6:11

I. LOOKING FOR A LITTLE R & R

- When we compare John's Gospel to the Synoptics, we find that Jesus went away with his disciples for rest, but did not find it (Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17).
- A large crowd followed Jesus along the shoreline. They had witnessed his signs, and they were looking for hope (Vss. 1-3; Matt. 14:14; Mark 6:31-33; Luke 9:11).
- The Passover Feast was at hand. We are now likely a year removed from the events of chapter 5.

II. JESUS — THE GREAT PROVIDER

- As God provided for Israel at the first Passover, and as he sustained the Israelites in the desert, so Jesus provides for his people (Ex. 12:43-51, 16:13-26).
- Jesus' disciples are concerned that there are no possible provisions for such a large crowd as the day was fading (Matt. 14:15).
- Jesus tests Philip. Our God never tempts us, but he does test our faith (Deut. 8:2; Judges 3:4; Luke 8:14; James 1:2-4, 12-14).
- "There was much grass in the place," John tells us. Another of his many eye-witness statements that help verify the events.
- Jesus multiplies five barley loaves and two fish so that they feed a crowd likely numbering over 10,000. The people eat to their fill...with leftovers (2 Kings 4:42-44).
- Nothing is wasted in the kingdom of God. Twelve basketfuls remain after the feeding, enough for each disciple to take as a reminder of Jesus' power and faithfulness.
- A great sign has occurred, and the people promptly misread it. The people desire to make Jesus their king by force. A great mix-up between the physical and the spiritual (Vss. 14-15).

KNOW: Jesus gives abundantly, with leftovers. Our God is a gracious and generous God. He is the great provider, from the wilderness wanderings to our own lives lived out today.

DO: Live for Christ, and know the blessing of God.

Suggested Reading:

The Providence of God by Paul Helm (LifePoint Library # 230 CCT)

Providence by John Piper (LifePoint Library #231 PIP)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read John 6:1-15

1. What is the setting of this 4th great sign? Why does it happen?
2. Why did Jesus (and his disciples) go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee? What were they hoping to accomplish?
3. Jesus' desire to "get away" is squashed by the appearance of a great crowd. How does he react?
4. How is your patience? How do you react when interrupted?
5. What does this narrative teach us about God's provision in our lives?
6. Do you trust God to provide for you?
7. What is your take-away from this text? How will you apply it?