

## Jesus: Lord of All Provision - John 6:1-15

The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 gives us a remarkable picture of Christ, so memorable that each of the Gospel writers (writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) included this miracle. While all of them included this miracle, only John writes extensively concerning the dialogue concerning the miracle. Jesus will use this miracle to demonstrate that He is the “Bread of Life, the True Bread from heaven.” (6:26-58)

**What does this miracle teach us about the Lord, about human need, and about our response?**

1. **The perplexing reality of our broken world. (John 6:1-4)** John sets the context simply by stating a location and an approximate time, nearing Passover. Matthew places this miracle in the context of Jesus hearing the report of the death of John the Baptist.

Mat 14:10 He (Herod) sent and had John beheaded in the prison, and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus. Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.”

Luke also ties this miracle to a statement concerning John’s death, but from Herod’s perspective. Luke 9:7-11, “Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. Herod said, “John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?” And he sought to see him. On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.

Jesus sought to be alone with His disciples, yet the multitudes of people followed them to a secluded place. Matthew called it the desert, a private place. Jesus responded by teaching them and healing their sick. Jesus looked upon the multitudes with eyes of compassion.

**We live in a world of constant need, enormous brokenness; we are in continual distress!**

**Acts of violence, acts of greed, acts of lust, acts of deceit, acts of cruelty, acts of hate! Broken world!**

**According to an article “Global Health Policy” - Gun violence recently became the number one cause of death for children and teens in the United States, surpassing motor vehicle deaths and those caused by other injuries.**

**This is true only if we do not count those that never make it out of their mother’s womb!**

**2 Cor 11:23-28, “Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.”**

2. **The mysterious methods the Lord employs. (John 6:5-9)** Since we have this miracle recorded in all four gospels, we learn more details concerning the situation.

Matthew 14:15-16 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

Luke 9:12-14, "Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people."

Jesus commands the disciples to do what they could not do, "You give them something to eat," to test them!

**God uses people to minister to people.** Jesus could have feed the multitudes without any loaves or fishes, yet He chose to involve others.

**Only John gives us the information as to where the five loaves came from:**

- **Andrew: Andrew was always bringing someone to Christ. (John 1:40-41 and 12:20)**
  - **Little lad: Little is much when you give it to the Master. (John 6:8-9)**
3. **The lessons God wants us to learn. (John 6:10-15) Surely** if God had all four Gospel writers include this miracle, He has something to teach us.
- ✓ **We live in a need-filled world; we cannot avoid it.** If we are to be disciples of the Master, then we must have eyes of compassion!
  - ✓ **God wants to use us to minister to those in need.** God could send angels, but He most often sends people!
  - ✓ **We need to focus on what we do have, not what we don't have.** We never advance the kingdom or impact the lives' of hurting people if we are only focused upon what we don't have and what we can't do!
  - ✓ **We need to place our little in God's hand.** What is it that God has given you? What's in your hand? For Moses it was a staff! For Joshua it was a shout! For David it was a smooth stone! For Gideon it was a light and a pitcher! For Nehemiah it was a trowel! For Samson it was a jawbone!
4. **Main point: Jesus is the Lord of all provision. Jesus is the One, the only One, Who can meet every need!** This miracle serves to remind us of the *all sufficiency* of Christ. Whatever your personal need may be, Jesus is more than able to supply. Jesus filled the empty stomachs of the thousands and then had enough leftovers for each disciple to take a basketful home.

**What do you hunger and thirst for today? Our God is more than enough to satisfy.**

**What do you have, that you are not giving to the Lord? God gave it to you to glorify Him.**

**What needs do you see around you that you can help meet? God gave it to you to share!**