

John's Lesson

Week of May. 11 - 17, 2019

Introduction

Jesus loved people. Every chance he got he embraced all who came near. Even when he was tired he was not too tired to feed the hungry. In this week's lesson we watch in awe how Jesus takes what is at hand and gets it into the hands of those in need. With Jesus there is always enough. Just a tiny bit becomes a tasty bite for thousands. And when all is said and done, Jesus avoids the attention and heads for the hills to cook up some more mercy.

Lesson John 6:1-15

6 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), **2** and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. **3** Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. **4** The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

5 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?" **6** He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, **9** "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). **11** 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.

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

14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." **15** Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Questions

1. Feeding the 5,000 was a sign of God's love and of His providing. Have you had a time when you thought there was not enough to go around and then it was just the right amount? (ideas: food, money,)

2. The boy had a small lunch. Jesus accepted his gift and made it multiply to feed everyone. Have you ever accepted a gift from someone that was insignificant and later realized the use or power that small gift had for you in your life. (ideas: a card, some food, a bar of soap, or a water bottle)

3. Phillip told Jesus how much money would be needed to purchase the bread and fish for all. Phillip had seen Jesus perform other miracles, yet he did not rely on his past experience to trust that Jesus would provide. Are we sometimes looking for a worldly fix with our own resources and forget to ask for God's help?

4. Multiplying the food was done in a private way. Jesus had his disciples distribute the bread so they were involved. He helped the disciples be a part of the miracle by working to get food to everyone. He wanted them to remain as giving participants. Have you

ever had a chance to help others where you did not start the process? (ideas: Feed My Starving Children, the Blessing Bags we made for the homeless, etc)

5. The crowd got what they wanted (bread) and then followed Jesus. We must learn to love him as he is, and not to expect what we think he should provide. Do we fall into this trap at times, not giving power to Jesus, expecting that we can handle things by ourselves?

6. At the end, Jesus did not want to hear the crowd supporting him. Instead, he went to the mountain to be with God. It is good to be like Jesus who showed us how to provide and quietly slip away. When you do something for someone else, do you do so quietly and without the need of fanfare?

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Help us to follow Jesus in providing for others. Help us to trust God to assist us when our needs are great. Thank you for the story of this miracle to remind us that the holy spirit will provide even if the task seems unsurmountable. Help me to know you are necessary for my spiritual life as bread or food is necessary for my physical life. Amen