

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SESSION 7

Review: Last week we finished the last half of chapter 5 where Jesus defended himself to the unbelieving Jews who accused him of blasphemy because he claimed God for his Father. Jesus pointed to the fact that he does the same work the Father does including raising and restoring life to the dead. He spoke of both spiritually and physically dead people hearing his voice and receiving life. The chapter closes with Jesus revealing why they couldn't believe on him...because they seek honor from each other instead of God. He told them to their faces that they didn't know God at all and that Moses would accuse them on judgment day.

John 6:1-4 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is *the sea of Tiberias*. And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. *The sea of Galilee gained the name Tiberius because of Herod Antipas who founded the city of Tiberius on its western shore about 18-20 BC. As the city grew into a major administrative center, the lake became commonly known by the Roman name. He built the city to honor his Roman overlord, Tiberius Caesar. Two things are common throughout the gospel of John. The events recorded are always around a Jewish feast and most of the miracles recorded took place on the sabbath day.*

John 6:5-7 When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. *When the Lord puts forth a question, he is never looking for information. The answer given reveals the heart of the person that answered. Jesus often questioned his disciples to test them, teach them and get them to look beyond immediate, practical, human limitations (like lack of money) to divine possibilities. This verse teaches that Jesus had foreknowledge (an attribute of God) because he already had a solution to this problem. Philip's answer made perfect logical sense, but he did not factor in the Son of God to the equation.*

John 6:8-11 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set

down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. *Andrew is just like Philip, which is just like us. He can only think in terms of limits and boundaries. He found a boy with five loaves and two fish, but how can that be the answer to this dilemma? The little was turned over to the LORD! When it was given into his hands, he multiplied it until everyone was full.*

John 6:12-14 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered *them* together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. *Notice that what the Lord gives, he does not want that wasted. The disciples didn't have time to eat because they were busy running back and forth from the crowd to the Lord to refill so they could pass out more. The twelve baskets that were taken up fed each of the men that had labored to feed the crowd that day. The crowd recognized Jesus as the prophet that Moses spoke about coming but their faith was shallow and superficial as we'll see going forward.*

John 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone. *These people misunderstood why their Messiah had come. They wanted Jesus to be a political liberator who would overthrow the Roman Empire and restore Israel's kingdom like it was in the Old Testament. They were completely ignorant of the Kingdom of God which is a spiritual kingdom.*

The spiritual lesson from this miracle: Humanity is hungry because we lost our connection with God because of sin. Nothing in the world will fill that void but God. Jesus came down from heaven to go up on Mount Calvary and be broken for us that whoever comes to him can be filled. When a sinner comes to Christ in repentance and faith, Christ is born in them by the Spirit of God satisfying the hunger and reconnecting them with the Father.

John 6:16-19 And when even was *now* come, his disciples went down unto the sea, And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. *The disciples are trying to row against a great windstorm and they only make it about three miles. The sea of Galilee is about eight miles wide so they didn't make it halfway. Jesus is walking through the storm that they cannot row through!*

John 6:20-21 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went. *When Jesus climbed into the boat, it was immediately at the other side. A miracle most people miss.*

John 6:22-27 The day following, when the people which stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was none other boat there, save that one whereinto his disciples were entered, and that Jesus went not with his disciples into the boat, but *that* his disciples were gone away alone; (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks:) When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus. And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither? Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. *The people that had eaten the day before go looking for the Lord the next day. They knew he hadn't gone with his disciples on their ship, so they were puzzled at how he had gotten there. Notice the Lord did not answer their question but got right to the root of their problem: they were more interested in loaves than the Lord!*

John 6:28-34 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. *The miracle was an illustration to his message which was "I am the Bread from heaven that gives life to the world". When he told them what they needed to do, they asked for a sign...I guess feeding thousands with a little boy's lunch wasn't good enough.*

John 6:35-38 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. *Jesus revealed that they did not believe on him. This is the same crowd that said the day before "This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world" proving that not everyone that follows for a time, has saving faith. We*

can't always see why people are following but the Lord knows perfectly. He promises to unconditionally accept and eternally secure anyone who comes to him in faith. Those are a gift from God. It emphasizes God's sovereignty in salvation. He initiates the work, not the sinner.

John 6:39-41 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. *All those that come to Christ in faith because the Father initiated the work, will be saved, sealed and secured! These people came to Christ but for the complete wrong reason. Everything they had in mind was for the here and now – more food, overthrow Rome, restore our government and they were not interested at all in submitting to Jesus and entering the Kingdom of God. When they were confronted with truth, they murmured at him. Truth is the great divider!*

Tonight's application: Learning to think beyond limits. Dilemmas and problems are going to always come. We as believers, need to stop thinking like Philip and Andrew. That is with human solutions that we can control. Jesus Christ is all we need! The lad in the story had faith as well to give up what little he had. As long as he possessed the five loaves and two fishes, that's all they would ever be. But when he gave them to the Lord, they became his possessions and he multiplied them to feed thousands. Would we give the Lord what we have even if it seemed small in our eyes? He is able to multiply our little into much and use it to be a blessing to many others.