

John 6:1-7 *After these things* [Jesus' proclamation and performance of His deity to the Jews in Jerusalem] *Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.* ² *And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.* ³ *And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.* ⁴ *And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh* [near]. ⁵ *When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company* [saw many people] *come unto him, he saith unto Philip, "Whence* [Where and how] *shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"* ⁶ *And this he said to prove* [test] *him: for he himself knew what he would do.* ⁷ *Philip answered him, "Two hundred pennyworth* [the total wages of a man when he worked for 200 days] *of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little."*

John 6:8-13 *One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him* [Jesus], ⁹ *"There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?"* ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *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* [as much as they wanted to eat]. ¹² *When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."* ¹³ *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* [which were left over after everyone there had eaten].

I. Ministry Involvement Night (Visit with Pastor Paul Chappell)

1. Presenting ourselves to God which is our reasonable service

*Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***

2. Five components

a. Worship: praising God always

*Psalm 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times: **his praise shall continually be in my mouth.***

b. Community: when Christians come together

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 *Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, ² **Unto the church of God** which is at Corinth, ...*

i. Church at Thessalonica: 1 Thessalonians 1:1

ii. Church at Philemon's home: Philemon 1:1-2

c. Commitment: discipleship of growing in Christ

Acts 2:42 *And they [the new believers] continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

d. Service: serve each other with love

Galatians 5:13 *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, **but by love serve one another.***

e. Outreach: Great Commission to go make disciples

Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ *And Jesus came and spake unto them [the disciples], saying, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*

3. Church leadership to prepare Christians for the work the church must do

a. Church leadership to teach Christians to grow up in Christ

Ephesians 4:11-12 ¹¹ *And he [God] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:***

b. Christians grow into spiritual maturity

Ephesians 4:14 *That we [all believers] **henceforth be no more children**, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

c. Cliché: "A staff-run church is a staff-ruined church."

d. Cliché #2: "Every Saint a servant, every member a minister"

II. Introduction to the Sermon

A. Context

1. The story of the feeding of the 5000 recounted in all of the other gospels: Mathew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-18
2. Jesus was preaching in Galilee
3. Jesus had chosen His 12 Disciples

4. King Herod had beheaded John the Baptist

B. Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee; these 5000+ people follow Him

C. Purpose of the followers

1. Jesus had His inner group of 12 Disciples – Matthew 10:1-4, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16

2. Jesus had many other disciples

John 8:30 *As he [Jesus] spake these words, **many believed on him.***

3. Jesus usually had crowds of people following after Him

D. Presence of faith

1. His 12 Disciples had faith to see Jesus as God's Messiah

Luke 9:20 *He [Jesus] said unto them [the disciples], "But whom say ye that I am?" Peter answering said, "The Christ of God."*

2. Jesus taught His disciples that He did not share everything with the crowds

Matthew 13:10-11 ¹⁰ *And the disciples came, and said unto him [Jesus], "Why speakest thou unto them in parables?"* ¹¹ *He answered and said unto them, "Because **it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**"*

3. Disciples followed Jesus because they believed Him

Matthew 11:29-30 (Jesus speaking) ²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.* ³⁰ *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

4. Huge crowds followed Jesus because of His miracles

John 4:48 *Then said Jesus unto him [a nobleman from Capernaum, whose son was near death with sickness], "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe."*

E. Person they followed

1. Jesus the miracle worker

2. Christ's love for us is the reason for Christian ministry

III. Set Down in Jesus Presence (verses 1-4)

A. You will learn some things

1. Jesus went up into a high mountain quietly after crossing the Sea by ship to grieve for His cousin, John the Baptist

Matthew 14:12 *And his [John the Baptist's] disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus.*

2. Jesus went quietly with His 12 Disciples to rest from the crowds

Mark 6:31-32 ³¹ *And he [Jesus] said unto them [His disciples], "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while": for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure [time] so much as to eat. ³² And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.*

3. Jesus took His 12 Disciples privately apart after their traveling ministry

Luke 9:10 *And the apostles, when they were returned [to Jesus after He had sent them out in pairs], told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.*

4. This was the time of the Passover Feast

- a. Jesus is the Bread from God

John 6:33 *For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

- b. Jesus is the Bread of Life

John 6:35 *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."*

- c. Passover Feast celebrated with unleavened bread

John 6:58 *This [the body Jesus would sacrifice on the cross] is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna [during the Exodus from Egypt], and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.*

5. Christian should always seek to learn more about God through His word

B. You will leave some things

1. Crowds left their homes and their towns

Matthew 14:13 *When Jesus heard of it [the beheading of John the Baptist], he departed thence [departed from that place] by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.*

2. Jesus left his private time of rest with His 12 Disciples & taught the crowds

Mark 6:34 *And Jesus, when he came out [of the boat], saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.*

3. His 12 Disciples asked Jesus to send away a very hungry crowd

Luke 9:12 *And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him [Jesus], "Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals [food]: for we are here in a desert place."*

4. Jesus tests the disciples (and specifically Phillip) with a question about where to buy food

Matthew 14:16 *But Jesus said unto them, "They need not depart; give ye them to eat."*

5. Phillip knew that 200 denarii (the amount a laborer would earn after working for 200 days) could not buy enough food for 5000 men

Mark 6:37 *He [Jesus] answered and said unto them, "Give ye them to eat." And they say unto him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?"*

C. You will see true love

1. Jesus saw the crowds & loved them, meeting their need for food as well as teaching, healing, shepherding

Matthew 14:14 *And Jesus went forth [out of the boat], and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.*

2. Jesus 12 disciples were moved with practicality in the normal course of human events

Mark 6:36 [The disciples speaking to Jesus] *"Send them [the crowd] away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat."*

3. First impulse for a Christian is to simply love & care for people

IV. Set Down by Jesus' Power (verses 11-13)

A. God already knows what He will do

1. Only John's gospel records that Jesus knew what He would do to feed this crowd of people (verse 7)
2. Jesus quizzed His 12 Disciples for them to find out how they would solve the hunger problem

B. Andrew saw the lad (young man)

1. Andrew (Peter's brother) was the disciple who found the young man with a lunch of 5 barley loaves & 2 small fish

Matthew 14:17 *And they [the disciples] say unto him [Jesus], "We have here but five loaves, and two fishes."*

2. The young man appears to be the only one prepared for the day (probably by his mother)
3. Young man was also God's answer to Phillip's questions

C. See the lesson

1. His 12 Disciples were also part of the solution to the crowd problem
2. The 12 Disciples organized sitting the people down into groups in a very grassy area

Mark 6:39 *And he [Jesus] commanded them [the disciples] to make all sit down by companies [in some sort of order] upon the green grass.*

3. The 12 Disciples organized the people into groups of 50 & 100

Mark 6:40 *And they [the crowd] sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.*

D. See the loaves

1. Jesus gave the command to sit down to eat
2. Jesus gave thanks to God above, blessing the bread & fish, & broke the food into pieces
3. He gave the broken pieces of food to His 12 Disciples to give to all the people

Matthew 14:19 *And he [Jesus] commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake [broke up the bread and fishes so they could be distributed], and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.*

Mark 6:41 *And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.*

Luke 9:16 *Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.*

4. Do not be the person to stop God's blessings
 - a. What if the crowd had stayed home and missed Jesus' teaching and healing? (Bring your friends to hear Jesus' teaching from the Bible)
 - b. What if the boy didn't have a lunch, or wasn't willing to share it? (Be the person God uses to give His blessing)
 - c. What if Andrew hadn't brought the boy to Jesus? (Never think there isn't enough for your needs)

V. Set Down for Jesus' Praise

A. Multiplied provisions for the crowd

1. The crowd ate as much as they wanted and were full

Mark 6:42 *And they did all eat, and were filled.*

2. Jesus took care of the needs of much more than 5000 people – maybe 20,000 – people if the men came with their families

Matthew 14:21 *And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.*

B. Multiplied provisions for the Disciples

1. Jesus instructed His 12 Disciples to gather up all the leftover food.
2. The 12 Disciples gathered up 12 huge baskets of leftover bread & fish

Mark 6:43 *And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes.*

3. Jesus did not want any food to be wasted
4. God does not waste His resources – we should be like our Father. God pours out His blessings with overflowing results

VI. Conclusion

A. Look at Andrew's actions

1. Andrew brought his brother Peter to Jesus – John 1:40-41
2. Andrew brought the young man with his lunch to Jesus
3. In another story, Andrew & Philip come to tell Jesus that some Greeks want to see Him – John 12:21-22
4. Andrew was always bringing people to Jesus

Matthew 25:21 *His lord [the employer] said unto him [the trusted servant], "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."*

B. Give your life to God like the young man

1. Pastor Chappell is a local example to us. He was like that young man willing to share his lunch 35 years ago
2. God is not in the business of "comfortable," making sure we have everything before we need it. Rather, God is in the business of asking for faith so that we will learn to trust Him.