



Gospel of John 1-12

The Bread of Life Feeds 5000+

“Jesus the Bread of Life,” is the theme of John chapter 6. The chapter opens with a ‘sign’ (miracle) that makes us think back to the Manna from God and forward to the Lord’s Table.

Introduction: Besides the resurrection—this is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. (See Matt 14:13-21; Mar 6:31-44; Luke 9:11-17). John the Baptist had recently been beheaded and Jesus had spent the day teaching and healing a great multitude.

The Setting vv. 1-4 A ‘great multitude’ of between 5000 and 10,000 people followed Jesus to the Tiberias area on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The people followed because of Jesus’ healing ministry. The note about the coming Passover signals that God’s provision and power are themes of this passage.

A. Philip is Tested vv. 5-7 When Jesus sees the multitudes coming, He is moved with compassion since they are like sheep without a shepherd and He teaches them, heals them and then feeds them. (*Matt 14:14; Mark 6:34*)

1. Faced with the impossible: Has Jesus ever asked you an impossible question?

B. Andrew Opines vv. 8-9 Andrew seems to point out the obvious—we don’t even have any food except this kid’s food—and and he may be unwilling to give it up.

1. The lad: What would it have been like to be this boy? This was his food—the loaves were like small biscuits and the fish more like sardines. Not much—but a meal for him.

C. Jesus Commands v. 10 From the Synoptics we learn that they sat down in groups of about 50 men which may have helped in determining how many were there. Add the women and children and you could end up with 10,000 or more.

D. Jesus Gives Thanks v. 11 The word ‘thanks’ comes from the word ‘eucharisteo,’ hence Eucharist—the Lord’s Table. This may be a type of the future Lord’s Table where Jesus is the ‘Bread of Life.’ From this blessing the ‘small’ becomes ‘great.’

E. The People Are Filled vv. 12-13 The word ‘filled’ means to be ‘satisfied with joy.’ It is a word that is used many times in the Word for being filled with the Spirit and filled with Joy.

1. The leftovers: It is estimated that we (America) could feed the world with what we put in the garbage disposal. What do you suppose they did with the 12 baskets of leftovers?

F. The People Miss Another Sign v. 14 They may have thought Jesus was the Prophet of Deuteronomy 18:15. He had healed them and filled their bellies—and they wanted to make Him King. The irony: They wanted to pressure the One who is already King into being a king on their own terms.

John 6:1-14 (NKJV)

—**1** After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. **2** Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. **3** And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. **4** Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.

—**5** Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”

6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.

7 Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.”

—**8** One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him,

9 “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?”

—**10** Then Jesus said, “Make the people 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 them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.

—**12** So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.”

13 Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

—**14** Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart; for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.” Jeremiah 15:16 KJV