Jesus feeds 5000+

John 6:1-14

1. Intro
   1. Feeding a lot of hungry people can be really taxing
   2. Jesus was drawing crowds and the crowds couldn’t get enough.
   3. Jesus was always teaching, sometimes with words, other times with stories, and sometimes with miracles.
      1. Today we look at His feeding of 5000
      2. This teaches the disciples to trust Him more.
      3. This teaches the hearers that He is the promised one
      4. And this teaches the boy that giving up a little will be returned to you multiplied
   4. This miracle is recorded in all 4 gospels, only the crucifixion and resurrection events match this.
2. Text
   1. John 6:1-4:
      1. Jesus and His disciples were looking for a little down time
      2. The passover was a special time in which they all took a minute to remember what God had done and what He had promised.
   2. John 6:5-6: Jesus is preparing to teach the lesson
   3. John 6:7-9:
      1. Phillip responds with the facts and figures
      2. 200 denari was probably what they had in the treasury, but not enough to provide for the needs of the group
      3. Andrew responds with practical issues: What we have, but lacking the vision.
   4. John 6:10:
      1. 5000 men, with the women and children 15,000-20,000 total people
      2. This is a monumental task, with a supernatural answer.
   5. John 6:11
      1. Jesus was given the boys lunch: 5 loaves and two fish, gave thanks and multiplied it.
      2. The food distributed to the groups of 50 spread out over the countryside.
   6. John 6:12-13: 12 baskets of leftovers…
      1. Could be one for each disciple
      2. Could be one for each tribe
      3. Could be some random amount…not a chance
   7. John 6:14: the people began to see Jesus as more than a healer and miracle worker, but like one of the prophets.
3. Points
   1. A Lesson in the Limitations
      1. Recognition of the situation is just a part, but a big part of seeing God do His work.
      2. Look at the situation in reality, and then TRUST GOD to do what He does!
      3. Go ahead and recognize the impossible situation, and then continue to believe in the God who can do the impossible!
      4. Where we mess up: Look at the impossible, and refuse to believe God.
      5. Faith of a mustard seed:

Matthew 17:14 And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, 15said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. 16And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” 17And Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.” 18And Jesus rebuked the demon,b and itc came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly.d 19Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” 20He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”e

* 1. A Lesson in the Lunch
     1. Give what is asked of you by God, and God will multiply it
     2. The Lunch wasn’t worth much: 5 small rolls, and a coupe of scrawny fish…then Jesus touched it.
     3. The Lunch was all the boy had, and it blessed the masses.
     4. A little bit went as far as God needed it to go, and further:
        1. “God will shatter the pint-sized expectations of what His followers can do if they would learn to bring Him what they have already been given. “Little is much when God is in it.” When Christians are willing to offer their lives sacrificially, relinquishing their hold on whatever God has given them in terms of time, money, talents, etc., God will use these ordinary things to create extraordinary things. Christians must never believe their resources are too little to serve God. God delights in taking a humble, seemingly insignificant person and using him or her for His glory.”
        2. Don’t look at the little bit, and have low expectations, LOOK TO THE LORD OF THE OVERFLOW!
     5. We do not serve the God of JUST ENOUGH, but of abundance.
     6. The Widows mite:

Luke 21:1 Jesus[a] looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, 2 and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins.[b] 3 And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. 4 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

* 1. A Lesson in the Leftovers
     1. Leftovers…or OVERFLOW?
     2. We live in a land of abundance and blessing!
        1. There is a loft of OVERFLOW in our world!
        2. Let’s use that for the glory of God.
     3. I’m thankful for the lesson of accounting for the leftovers.
     4. Matthew Henry: See how large the divine bounty is; it not only fills the cup, but makes it run over; bread enough, and to spare, in our Father's house. The fragments filled twelve baskets, one for each disciple; they were thus repaid with interest for their willingness to part with what they had for public service.
     5. Watch God work, join Him in that work, serve HIM and anticipate an overflow.

Psalm 100:1Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

2

    Serve the Lord with gladness!  
    Come into his presence with singing!

3

Know that the Lord, he is God!  
    It is he who made us, and we are his;[a]  
    we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
    and his courts with praise!  
    Give thanks to him; bless his name!

5

For the Lord is good;  
    his steadfast love endures forever,  
    and his faithfulness to all generations.

1. Close