

## Day 26 Devo – John 6:1-15

Have you ever seen a need in your life or someone else's where you thought: "Lord, I need you to do a miracle to take care of this need." Maybe it's the need for peace in a situation where things are beyond what anyone can control. Maybe it's the need for contentment or satisfaction for an area of life where there may be feelings of lacking. Maybe it's the need for an answered prayer for something you feel God has not answered yet. Whatever the need may be, I promise you: God can meet the need (and mayhaps in some of the most unexpected ways).

Whether you have been in the church for a long time or are fairly new to Christianity: You have likely heard of the story of Jesus miraculously feeding the five thousand with a measly meal of 5 small barley loaves and 2 small fish. Though we may be familiar with this story, let's not lose our awe of what God can do with so little. Let's dig deeper!

### **(John 6:1-4)**

*1 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.*

**Notes:** "A great crowd of people followed him" is quite an understatement in this instance. The name of Jesus and the amazing teachings, wonders, and signs he had been performing were spreading news of him far and wide. This is a massive, big ol' crowd following Jesus.

→ **They eagerly await whatever it is he'll do next.**

→ **Do you eagerly await for what the Lord will do next in your life?**

### **(John 6:5-9)**

*5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards 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 of us 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?"*

**Notes:** Jesus is quite aware of the massive parade of people following him. Jesus' focus is on how he can take care of these people. I imagine Jesus cheekily asking Philip: "So, how are we gonna feed these people?" just to hear Philip respond shrilly (even though Jesus already had it all under control. #MiracleMealPrepper). Andrew chimes in with a small donation of a small meal gathered from a young boy.

→ **The crowd had both a physical need (to satisfy their hunger) AND a deeper need (to be spiritually fed). As do we.**

→ **The disciples are focused on how THEY can meet the people's needs (an impossible task to accomplish by their own strength). However, Jesus is inviting them to see how HE will meet the people's needs through HIS strength.**

→ **Without any answers or a detailed game plan for what the catering plan is: The boy faithfully offers all he has.**

→ **When we don't have answers or an idea of what God is doing, do we faithfully surrender all we have unto Him?**

### **(John 6:10-13)**

*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.*

**Notes:** We don't know how many were actually in attendance for this miracle as only the men (and not the women and children accompanying them) were accounted for that day. But nonetheless, imagine a stadium filled with hungry people and EVERYONE received enough food to be SATISFYINGLY full. Stunning miracle meal prepping Jesus multiplies this measly meal to meet their need. And it gets more awesome...there's leftovers!

→ **God provided for a need and it was more than enough.**

→ **Don't waste the blessings He graciously gives us.**

→ **Are we on the lookout for how God has blessed us and continues to bless us?**

**(John 6:14-15)**

14 After the people saw the sign of 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.

**Notes:** Ah, yay! The people are beginning to connect that this truly must be the Messiah they've been waiting for!

→ **Witnessing how the Lord cares and provides for others and ourselves can deepen our understanding of how great, faithful, gracious, and loving He is.**

→ Gut check: **Are you in the habit of asking God to grant your wishes like a cosmic genie? Or do you sincerely surrender your will before Him and trust Him to deliver divine provision and for Him to usher His good in your life?**

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**Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we are needy creatures. May we not cling to our own strength to meet our needs or the needs of others, but to Yours alone. I pray that we may be able to surrender all we have and our will unto You. Lord, move in us and use us to do amazing things that will give glory to You and can point others to You in these remaining days (and beyond) of our HeartWork challenge. May our offerings, gestures, and words honor you and those you would have for us to bless. Amen.

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