

Theme: It is only in Christ that we will find full satisfaction; he alone supplies all that we need for this *life* and for *eternal life*. In his all-sufficient power he takes what obedience and service we offer to him and works *through us* to bring the bread of life to hungry hearts.

Background:

- The only miracle recorded in all 4 gospels.
- Marks turning point in each of the gospels

Introduction: Philippians 4:13 and the best picture I ever took.

I. Great Needs

- A. A needed rest (10)
 - Just back from mission trip.
 - Many people following the disciples. (Mark 6:30,31)

- B. A “needy” people
 - 1. In need of a shepherd! (Mark 6:34)
 - 2. They need *dinner!*
 - a. Send them away? (12)
 - Still thinking in very “practical” terms
 - Unbelief? How many times has Jesus met their needs?
 - b. *You* feed them. (13)
 - He really meant it.

- C. The disciples’ greatest *need*
 - 1. Seeing their own inadequacy.
 - 2. Seeing Christ’s perfect, complete sufficiency
 - a. Jesus’ power and authority in their preaching
 - b. Jesus’ power and authority in their service
 - 3. Seeing that *With Jesus* “all things are possible” (Philippians 4:13)

II. Great Provision - Through a Great Provider

- A. Our limitations
 - 1. Five loaves and two fish?
 - Not much to work with. (John 6:7-9)
 - 2. Sometimes even less!

B. Christ's unlimited power- *THE ALL-SUFFICIENT PROVIDER*

1. Controlling the natural order
 - The Lord of creation – provides all we need
 - Greater than Elisha (2 Kings 4:42-44)
 - Greater than Moses (Exodus 16, Numbers 11)

2. Meeting every need!

C. His power in us

1. Order and blessing
2. The *Disciples* serve *all!*
 - They distribute what Jesus hands them
 - Given power to assist, to serve

D. Satisfaction and abundance!

1. Once Jesus started giving – it just kept coming.
2. 12 baskets left over
 - The baskets are still *full!*
3. The Bread of Life - Provides for all the needs of life!
 - True satisfaction (John 6:35)
 - Provision for eternal life!! (John 6:40,47-48)
 - Jesus is the true Bread of Heaven

III. Great Possibilities!

- A. The “narrow” view - “I don’t need a provider.”
 - It’s up to me! Life is entirely what *I* make of it.
- B. The “greater” vision - Looks to Christ in his perfect provision.
 1. Philippians.4:13; Romans 8:32
 2. His ministry through us
 3. His ministry for us

Closing: Seeing the fullness and satisfaction of the Kingdom of God