

5/3/15

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR  
HAS COME, WEEK 66

TITLE: DINNER IMPOSSIBLE

TEXT: LUKE 9:10-17

INTRODUCTION: IMPOSSIBILITIES, EVERYONE  
**CAN LIST A FEW. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU CAN'T**  
GET BLOOD OUT OF A TURNIP; **YOU CAN'T FLY**  
**ON YOUR OWN. YOU CAN'T MAKE SOMETHING**  
**OUT OF NOTHING AND YOU CAN'T WALK ON**  
WATER. (THOSE THINGS ARE IMPOSSIBLE FOR  
US AS HUMAN BEINGS).

\* BUT THE WORD IMPOSSIBLE WAS NOT IN  
**CHRIST'S VOCABULARY. FOR YOU SEE HE**  
DELIGHTED TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE TO SHOW  
THAT HE WAS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF MAN.

\*\* SO HE TURNED WATER INTO WINE, HE RAISED THE DEAD, HE HEALED A MAN WHO HAD BEEN SICK FOR 38 YEARS, HE WALKED ON WATER AND PERFORMED A MULTITUDE OF OTHER IMPOSSIBILITIES.

**(2) AND IN OUR TEXT TODAY, WE'RE GOING TO** START TO SEE JESUS PERFORM ANOTHER IMPRESSIVE, SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE FEAT, THE FEEDING OF FIVE THOUSAND MEN, PLUS WOMEN AND CHILDREN, POSSIBLY 25,000 PEOPLE!

**\* AND IN REALITY THAT'S NO BIG DEAL FOR HIM.** FOR YOU SEE HE IS GOD, AND WITH GOD NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, LUKE 1:37.

(3) AND MY POINT IS A GOD WHO CAN SPEAK THE WORLD INTO EXISTENCE HAS NO PROBLEM FEEDING 25,000 PEOPLE, RIGHT?

\* IN FACT, THE PROPHET JEREMIAH SAID THIS IS IN JEREMIAH 32:17 (QUOTE IT). AND IN JEREMIAH 32:27 THE LORD JEHOVAH SAID: (QUOTE IT).

**\*\* AND IT'S ENCOURAGING TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE A LORD WHO HAS UNLIMITED POWER. AND BECAUSE OF THAT, THE ONLY IMPOSSIBILITIES THAT WE FACE IN OUR LIVES AS BELIEVERS ARE THINGS THAT ARE OUTSIDE OF THE WILL OF GOD.**

\*\*\* EVERYTHING ELSE IS POSSIBLE THROUGH **CHRIST, EVERYTHING THAT'S INSIDE OF HIS WILL, PHILIPPIANS 4:13.**

(4) NOW I BRING THAT UP BECAUSE MANY **TIMES OUR VOCABULARY DOESN'T CONVEY THAT CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST'S POWER. (WE USE WORDS LIKE CAN'T, WON'T WORK, RIDICULOUS, HOPELESS AND IMPOSSIBLE.)**

\* AND I REALIZE THAT A LOT OF THINGS THAT WE FACE FROM A HORIZONTAL PERSPECTIVE THAT ARE INSIDE THE WILL OF GOD, LOOK IMPOSSIBLE.

\*\* BUT WE FORGET THE VERTICAL PERSPECTIVE, AND WHAT IS THAT? WELL, IN LUKE 18:27, JESUS SAID, THE THINGS WHICH ARE IMPOSSIBLE WITH MEN ARE POSSIBLE WITH **GOD. THAT'S THE VERTICAL PERSPECTIVE.**

(5) AND I WONDER THIS MORNING, WHAT IS ON YOUR LIST OF IMPOSSIBILITIES? AN UNSAVED MATE, A WAYWARD CHILD, YOUR JOB OR LACK OF ONE, YOUR FINANCES, YOUR MARRIAGE, YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PARENTS - TEENAGERS, VICTORY OVER A SINFUL HABIT. WHAT IS IT?

\* WELL, LET ME REMIND YOU AGAIN, THE ONLY THINGS THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE ARE THE THINGS THAT ARE OUTSIDE OF THE WILL OF GOD. SO THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE FOR THAT SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION. **THE THINGS THAT I'VE** JUST MENTIONED.

\*\* AND BELOVED WE NEED TO LOOK AT CIRCUMSTANCES FROM THE VERTICAL PERSPECTIVE, WE NEED TO LOOK AT HOPELESS CIRCUMSTANCES FROM AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE.

(6) NOT FROM A WORLD PERSPECTIVE, A SIGHT PERSPECTIVE, A MATHEMATICAL PERSPECTIVE, AN IN HAND PERSPECTIVE, AS THE DISCIPLES DID IN OUR TEXT TODAY.

**\* AND BELOVED MANY TIMES IT'S OUR LACK OF FAITH, OUR LACK OF TRUST IN CHRIST'S POWER, OUR LACK OF OBEDIENCE AND COMMITMENT TO CHRIST'S WORD THAT LIMITS CHRIST'S WORKINGS IN OUR LIVES.**

**\*\* AND LET ME SAY I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING OR POSSIBILITY THINKING OR NAME IT AND CLAIM IT, OR HEALTH, WEALTH AND PROSPERITY PHILOSOPHY. BECAUSE WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT MIRACLES AND IMPOSSIBILITIES, AUTOMATICALLY YOU'RE CLASSIFIED IN THOSE CAMPS.**

**(7) NO, I'M TALKING ABOUT BIBLICAL THINKING, ABOUT VERTICAL THINKING, ABOUT AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE, WHICH CHRIST DESIRED FOR HIS DISCIPLES TO HAVE, BUT THEY DIDN'T.**

\* AND THIS MORNING, WE WANT TO START TO LEARN THE LESSON THAT JESUS WAS TRYING TO TEACH HIS DISCIPLES, AND THAT IS THAT **CHRIST'S SPECIALTY IS IMPOSSIBILITIES.**

\*\* **AND BECAUSE OF THAT I'VE TITLED THE MESSAGE TODAY: DINNER IMPOSSIBLE.**

\*\*\* **AND FROM THE DISCIPLE'S PERSPECTIVE, FEEDING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WITH 5 LOAVES AND TWO FISH LOOKED IMPOSSIBLE. THAT WASN'T ENOUGH TO FEED THEM.**

\*\*\*\* WHEN JESUS TOLD THEM TO GIVE EVERYBODY SOMETHING TO EAT IT LOOKED LIKE **MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. BUT IT SHOULDN'T HAVE** IN LIGHT OF ALL THE THINGS THEY SAW JESUS DO OVER THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF.

(8) AND WITH CHRIST MISSION IMPOSSIBLE  
TURNED INTO MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. AND TO  
**HELP US SEE THAT, WE'LL LOOK AT 3 THINGS.**

\* NO. 1 THE DESIRE OF CHRIST FOR PRIVACY  
AND THEN TO MINISTER TO THE MULTITUDES,  
VV. 10&11; NO. 2 THE DULLNESS OF THE  
DISCIPLES, VV. 12-14A; AND NO. 3 THE DISPLAY  
**OF CHRIST'S POWER, VV. 14B-17.**

\*\* AND WITH THOSE POINTS TO DIRECT OUR  
STUDY, **LOOK AT V. 13 WHERE WE'LL START TO**  
SEE OUR FIRST POINT THIS MORNING, THE  
DESIRE OF CHRIST, LOOK AT LUKE 9:10 PLEASE.

I. THE DESIRE, (READ V. 10)

A. NOW HERE IN VERSE 10, THE 12 APOSTLES  
RETURN FROM THEIR SHORT TERM MISSION  
WHEN JESUS SENT THEM OUT INTO GALILEE TO  
PREACH THE GOSPEL AND TO HEAL, WHAT WE  
STUDIED LAST SUNDAY.

\* AND ACCORDING TO MARK 6:30&31, THE PARALLEL COMPANION TEXT TO OUR PASSAGE IN LUKE 9, THAT THE DISCIPLES NEEDED SOME TIME TO REST AND RECOVER AFTER THEY RETURNED TO REPORT TO JESUS HOW THEIR MISSION TRIP WENT.

\*\* FOR MARK 6:30&31 SAYS: -

V. 30 - THE APOSTLES GATHERED TOGETHER WITH JESUS; AND THEY REPORTED TO HIM ALL THAT THEY HAD DONE AND TAUGHT.

V. 31 - AND HE SAID TO THEM, "**COME AWAY BY YOURSELVES TO A SECLUDED PLACE AND REST A WHILE.**" (FOR THERE WERE MANY *PEOPLE* COMING AND GOING, AND THEY DID NOT EVEN HAVE TIME TO EAT.)

\*\*\* NOW IT APPEARS THAT THE 12 WERE EXHAUSTED, FOR AFTER THEY RETURNED FROM THIS TRIP THEY WERE BEING PEOPLED TO DEATH, THAT SO MANY PEOPLE WERE COMING **TO THEM, THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO EAT!**



\*\*\*\* AND JESUS SEEING THEIR FATIGUE SAYS, COME AWAY BY YOURSELVES TO A SECLUDED PLACE TO REST AWHILE.

1. AND SO JESUS AND THE 12 GO ON A RETREAT, THEY GET INTO A BOAT ACCORDING TO MARK 6:32 AND GO TO A SECLUDED PLACE BY THEMSELVES, TO A CITY CALLED BETHSAIDA.

\* AND THE 12 NEEDED SOME TIME ALONE AWAY WITH JESUS.

\*\* AND ONE QUICK APPLICATION HERE. AND THAT IS REST IS IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY AS YOU ARE WORKING WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE THE 12, AND IT IS A DRAIN.

\*\*\* AND SO YOU COME APART AND REST A WHILE OR YOU COME APART. REST AND REFRESHMENT IS IMPORTANT AND SOMETIMES IT IS VERY HARD TO DO.

\*\*\*\* HOWEVER, THERE IS AN EXTREME OF THAT, AND THAT IS SOME PEOPLE LIVE FOR LEISURE AND EVEN IN A SENSE LIVE AND WORSHIP LEISURE.

2. AND YET REST IS IMPORTANT, BUT WORKING HARD FOR THE LORD AND OUR FAMILIES IS ALSO REQUIRED.

\* AND LIKE EVERYTHING, PEOPLE HAVE A TENDENCY TO GO TO EXTREMES, LIKE WITH SLEEP.

\*\* ON ONE HAND, OUR BODIES NEED SLEEP, OUR BODIES NEED TO RECHARGE, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME PEOPLE SLEEP TOO MUCH AND LOVE SLEEP TO THE DEGREE THEY SLEEP TOO MUCH, QUOTE PROVERBS 20:13 AND PROVERBS 26:14.

\*\*\* NOW WHAT IS THE LESSON! REST, BUT **DON'T OBSESS WITH SLEEP, RETREAT, DON'T** WORSHIP AND LIVE FOR LEISURE.

\*\*\*\* WITH THAT SAID, LOOK AT V.11 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 11. **NOW OUR LORD'S DEPARTURE**  
FOR BETHSAIDA WITH THE 12 DID NOT GO  
UNNOTICED.

\* IN FACT, THE CROWDS WERE AWARE OF THIS  
DEVELOPMENT AND FOLLOWED JESUS.

\*\* AND WHAT THEY DO IS THEY FOLLOWED  
JESUS ON FOOT FROM THE SURROUNDING  
CITIES AND MET UP WITH HIM.

\*\*\* AND GET THIS, BECAUSE JESUS WENT TO  
BETHSAIDA IN A BOAT, THE PEOPLE RAN THERE  
AND MET HIM THERE, FOR MARK 6:33 SAYS:  
"THE PEOPLE SAW THEM GOING, AND MANY  
RECOGNIZED THEM AND RAN THERE TOGETHER  
ON FOOT FROM ALL THE CITIES, AND GOT THERE  
AHEAD OF THEM."

\*\*\*\* NOW THEY WERE NOT FOLLOWING JESUS BECAUSE THEY LOVED HIM AT THIS POINT, BUT ACCORDING TO JOHN 6:2, THE PARALLEL TEXT **IN JOHN, "BECAUSE THEY WERE SEEING THE SIGNS WHICH HE WAS PERFORMING ON THOSE WHO WERE SICK."**

1. SO BASICALLY THEY ARE GOING AFTER JESUS TO BE HEALED, HAVE A LOVED ONE HEALED, OR WATCH THE SIGNS HE PERFORMED.

\* OBVIOUSLY, FEW CAME FOR WHAT JESUS COULD DO FOR THEM SPIRITUALLY, BUT IN SPITE OF THAT, JESUS HAD COMPASSION ON THEM.

\*\* FOR IT SAYS, JESUS WELCOMED THEM HERE IN LUKE 9:11. HE PUTS THE NEEDS OF THE **MULTITUDES OVER THE 12'S NEEDS.**

\*\*\* AND HE SAW THEIR SPIRITUAL NEED, FOR IN **MARK'S PARALLEL PASSAGE IN MARK 6:34 IT SAYS:** "WHEN JESUS WENT ASHORE, HE SAW A LARGE CROWD, AND HE FELT COMPASSION FOR THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE LIKE SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD; AND HE BEGAN TO TEACH THEM MANY THINGS."

\*\*\*\* SO JESUS IN COMPASSION MEETS THEIR PHYSICAL NEED, HE HEALS AND HE WANTS TO MEET THEIR GREATEST NEED, THEIR SPIRITUAL NEED, SO HE TEACHES, HE SPEAKS TO THEM ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. (OH WHAT A SAVIOR!)

2. AND IN SUMMARY IN VV. 10&11 OF LUKE 9, WE SEE OUR COMPASSIONATE SAVIOR WHO MOVES FROM A DESIRE TO BE ALONE WITH HIS DISCIPLES, TO A DESIRE TO MINISTER TO THE MULTITUDES.

**\* WHICH LEADS US TO OUR 2'D POINT TODAY,** THE DULLNESS, THE DULLNESS OF THE 12. LOOK AT V. 12 WITH ME PLEASE.

## II. THE DULLNESS, (READ V. 12 )

A. NOW THE JEWS HAD TWO PERIODS OF EVENING, ONE FROM THREE TO SIX P.M. AND THE OTHER FROM SIX TO NINE P.M.

\* AND THE **PHRASE "THE DAY WAS ENDING"** REFERS TO THE FIRST EVENING, WHICH WAS JUST PRIOR TO SUNSET.

\*\* NOW BECAUSE OF THE LATENESS IN THE DAY, THE DISCIPLES WERE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THE CROWD WOULD HAVE TO EAT.

\*\*\* FOR YOU SEE THE PLACE WAS DESOLATE, A DESERTED PLACE, A REMOTE PLACE, MANY MILES FROM THE NEAREST TOWN.

\*\*\*\* AND THE TIME WAS ALREADY PAST FOR THE EVENING MEAL, SO THE DISCIPLES TELL JESUS WHAT TO DO.

**1. NOW FROM JOHN'S ACCOUNT OF THE FEEDING OF THE 5,000 WE LEARN THAT JESUS HAD BROUGHT UP THE MATTER OF FEEDING THE MULTITUDE MUCH EARLIER IN THE DAY.**

\* FOR JOHN 6:5&6 SAYS: EVEN WHILE THE GREAT MULTITUDES WAS COMING TO HIM, JESUS SAID TO PHILIP, **"WHERE ARE WE TO BUY BREAD, THAT THESE MAY EAT?"**

\*\* AND JESUS DID NOT ASK PHILIP THE QUESTION IN ORDER TO GET ADVICE BUT TO **"TEST HIM"; FOR HE HIMSELF KNEW WHAT HE WAS INTENDING TO DO."**

\*\*\* NOW PHILIP WAS FROM THAT AREA AND WOULD MOST LIKELY HAVE KNOWN WHAT FOOD WOULD HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE; BUT JESUS TESTING HIS FAITH WANTED PHILIP TO LOOK TO HIM RATHER THAN TO HUMAN AND EARTHLY RESOURCES.

\*\*\*\* BUT UNFORTUNATELY PHILIP AND THE REST OF THE 12 WERE MORE AWED AT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CROWD THAN THE **MAGNITUDE OF JESUS' POWER.**

2. WELL, TIME GOES BY AS WE GO BACK TO LUKE 9:12 TO OUR TEXT, EVENING IS APPROACHING, AND THE DISCIPLES SOLUTION IS TO SEND THE MULTITUDES AWAY.

\* AND THE DULLNESS OF THE DISCIPLES IS SHOWN HERE, FOR THEY TELL JESUS WHAT TO DO.

\*\* THEY TOLD JESUS WHERE HE WAS, WHAT TIME IT WAS AND WHAT HE SHOULD DO. AND **THAT'S PRETTY ARROGANT ISN'T IT?**

\*\*\* I MEAN HUMANS ACTING LIKE GOD THE SON **IS NOT AWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON OR AWARE OF THESE PEOPLE'S NEEDS, THAT'S PRETTY BIZARRE!**



\*\*\*\* THEY ARE GOING TO TELL GOD WHAT TO DO!  
BUT THAT IS NO DIFFERENT WHEN WE ACT LIKE  
**GOD IS NOT AWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON**  
AROUND US AND WE TRY TO TELL HIM WHAT TO  
**DO. THAT'S PRETTY ARROGANT ISN'T IT? HE IS**  
**THE CREATOR AND WE'RE THE CREATURE.**

3. LORD YOU **DON'T UNDERSTAND. THIS HAS**  
TO HAPPEN, LORD! AND WE TRY TO TWIST HIS  
ARM TO GET OUR WILL RATHER THAN TO  
SUBMIT TO HIM FOR HIS WILL AND TRUST HIM.

\* AND OUR PROBLEM IS A LACK OF TRUST AND A  
LACK OF KNOWING GOD. FOR TO KNOW HIM IN  
HIS BEING AND CHARACTER IS TO KNOW THAT  
**HE'S LOVING, COMPASSIONATE, FAITHFUL,**  
IMMUTABLE, RIGHTEOUS, GOOD, JUST, HOLY,  
GRACIOUS, PATIENT, LONGSUFFERING,  
MERCIFUL, OMNISCIENT, OMNIPOTENT AND  
OMNIPRESENT.

\*\* SO WHO ARE WE TO TELL GOD TO YIELD TO  
OUR WILL?

\*\*\* WELL, THE DISCIPLES TELL JESUS WHAT TO DO. BUT NOTICE WHAT JESUS TELLS THEM TO DO. LOOK AT V. 13 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 13. NOW JESUS TOLD THE **DISCIPLES, THEY DON'T NEED TO GO AWAY,** SPEAKING OF THE MULTITUDE, YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT.

\* AND THE VERB GIVE HERE IS IN THE IMPERATIVE MOOD SO THIS IS A COMMAND.

\*\* AND THEY PROBABLY WERE BLOWN AWAY, ALTHOUGH THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN, FOR WHO GAVE THEM THE COMMAND?

\*\*\* THE CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. AND OBVIOUSLY WHO JESUS WAS AT THIS POINT DOES NOT ENTER THEIR MINDS. AND ALL THE MIRACLES THEY SAW HIM DO FOR AT LEAST A YEAR AND A HALF, AND ON THAT DAY DID NOT COUNT. THERE WAS A HUGE DISCONNECT.

\*\*\*\* FOR WHAT IS THEIR RESPONSE IN THE REST OF V. 13, WHICH FURTHER REVEALS THEIR DULLNESS.

1. NOW THIS WAS DINNER IMPOSSIBLE IN THEIR EYES. I MEAN HOW COULD THEY FEED THE MULTITUDES WITH FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH, THE LUNCH OF A YOUNG BOY ACCORDING TO **JOHN'S GOSPEL.**

\* FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH WAS NOT ENOUGH TO FEED THE 12, LET ALONE UPWARDS TO 25,000 PEOPLE.

\*\* YET FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, IT WOULD SEEM TO HAVE REQUIRED SO LITTLE FAITH FOR THE DISCIPLES FOR JESUS TO DO A MIRACLE.

\*\*\* FOR REMEMBER UP TO THIS TIME, JESUS HAD RAISED THE DEAD, TURNED WATER INTO WINE, CAST OUT DEMONS, CLEANSED LEPERS, STILLED THE SEA AND HEALED A MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE. (WHAT A SHORT MEMORY) - AGAIN EVEN THAT DAY.

\*\*\*\* AND THEY WERE LIKE A PERSON WHO STANDS IN FRONT OF NIAGARA FALLS AND ASKS WHERE HE CAN FIND A DRINK.

1. BELOVED, THEY WERE FACE TO FACE WITH THE SUPREME POWER IN THE UNIVERSE AND YET HAD SPIRITUAL MEMORY LOSS, THEY KNEW WHAT HE DID, **BUT THEY DIDN'T** ACT LIKE IT.

\* AND HAD ANYONE ASKED THEM IF JESUS COULD DO SUCH A THING, THEIR ANSWER WOULD HAVE BEEN AN UNHESITATING AND **UNANIMOUS, "OF COURSE HE CAN"**.

\*\* BUT EVEN WHEN PROMPTED BY JESUS' SUGGESTION, THEY ONLY SAW THEIR OWN LACK INSTEAD OF HIS SUFFICIENCY.

\*\*\* THEY WERE LOOKING AT THEIR SITUATION ONLY WITH THEIR HUMAN EYES AND ONLY AT HUMAN RESOURCES, MUCH AS WE DO TOO MUCH, UNLESS WE GO AND BUY FOOD FOR ALL THESE PEOPLE. BUT THERE **WASN'T A GIANT EAGLE** NEAR THEM, THEY WERE IN A DESOLATE **PLACE. PLUS THEY DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF MONEY.**

\*\*\*\* LOOK AT V. 14A PLEASE.

C. READ V. 14A. NOW HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE THERE? 5,000 MEN PLUS WOMEN AND CHILDREN, ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 14:21.

\* SO UPWARDS OF 25,000 PEOPLE, FOR JEWISH FAMILIES WERE LARGE.

\*\* BUT AGAIN FOR THE APOSTLES THIS IS DINNER IMPOSSIBLE, THERE IS DULLNESS, SO **IT'S TIME FOR THE DISPLAY OF JESUS' POWER,** WHICH IS OUR LAST POINT TODAY. LOOK BACK AT V. 14 PLEASE.

### III. THE DISPLAY, (READ V. 14)

A. NOW BEFORE JESUS DISPLAYS HIS GREAT POWER OF MULTIPLYING FOOD, CREATING FOOD, HE GIVES A COMMAND TO THE 12 THAT **MUST HAVE BEEN SHOCKING, "HAVE THEM SIT DOWN IN GROUPS OF ABOUT 50 EACH."**

**\* AND MARK 6:40 NOTES THAT THEY "SAT DOWN IN GROUPS OF HUNDREDS AND FIFTIES. NO CONTRADICTION, BUT MORE DETAIL "OF ABOUT 50."**

\*\* AND CERTAINLY ORGANIZING THE CROWD LIKE THAT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR 12 MEN TO SERVE 5,000 MEN PLUS WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

\*\*\* HOWEVER THE SHOCK FROM THE 12 MUST HAVE BEEN, SERVE THEM WHAT?

\*\*\*\* FOR THE APOSTLES JUST FINISHED TELLING JESUS THAT THEY HAD NOTHING WITH WHICH TO FEED THEM.

1. I MEAN THEY COULD HAVE SAID, WHY ARE WE HAVING ALL THESE PEOPLE SIT DOWN? WE **JUST TOLD YOU, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOOD.** BUT WHAT DO THEY DO? WELL, LOOK AT V. 15 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 15. NOW DESPITE THEIR OBVIOUS QUESTIONS AND MISGIVINGS, THE 12 OBEYED THE LORD AND HAD ALL THE PEOPLE SIT DOWN.

\* AND THEIR OBEDIENCE SHOWED THEIR LOVE FOR THE LORD AND SOME TRUST. FOR THIS COMMAND OF JESUS, TO HAVE THEM SIT DOWN, THE IMPERATIVE MOOD IN THE GREEK, IS **OBEYED, EVEN THOUGH THEY DIDN'T** UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON.

\*\* AND AS I SAID LAST SUNDAY, OBEDIENCE IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO A COMMAND OF JESUS AND SHOWS OUR LOVE FOR HIM, EVEN IF IT **DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! IT'S TRUST AND OBEY, FOR THERE'S NO OTHER WAY, TO BE** HAPPY IN JESUS, BUT TO TRUST AND OBEY!

\*\*\* WELL, THE 12 OBEY, AND AFTER THE **MULTITUDES ARE SEATED WE SEE JESUS'** POWER ON DISPLAY. LOOK AT V. 16 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 16. NOW BEFORE JESUS BREAKS THE LOAVES AND PERFORMS THIS MIRACLE OF CREATION AND GIVES THE FOOD TO THE DISCIPLES TO DISTRIBUTE, HE LOOKS UP TO HEAVEN AND BLESSES THE FOOD.

\* AND THE WORD FOR BLESSED IS THE GREEK WORD YOO-LOG-EH-O FROM WHICH WE GET OUR ENGLISH WORD EULOGIZE AND IT LIT. MEANS TO PRAISE, TO CELEBRATE WITH PRAISES, TO INVOKE BLESSINGS, TO CONSECRATE A THING **WITH SOLEMN PRAYERS, TO ASK GOD'S** BLESSING ON A THING.

\*\* **AND THAT'S WHAT JESUS DID, HE BLESSED** THE FOOD, AND IN ESSENCE GAVE THANKS TO HIS FATHER TO WHAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.



1. AND BELOVED, LET ME REMIND YOU HERE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT WHEN WE SET DOWN FOR FOOD, WE GIVE HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE **ONE WHO HAS PROVIDED IT, AND WE DON'T** BLESS THE FOOD, WE BLESS THE ONE WHO PROVIDES THE FOOD AND WE GIVE THANKS TO HIM FOR GIVING IT TO US, AND THAT WE CAN ENJOY IT.

\* AND THE EPITOME OF UNGRATEFULNESS FOR **A CHRISTIAN IS TO TAKE FOR GRANTED GOD'S PROVISION AND NOT GIVE HIM THANKS. THAT'S WICKED!**

\*\* NOW AFTER THE LORD GIVES THANKS, HE BREAKS THE LOAVES AND GIVES THEM TO THE DISCIPLES, WHO IN TURN GAVE TO THE MULTITUDES

\*\*\* AND WE ARE NOT TOLD EXACTLY AT WHAT MOMENT THE MIRACLE TOOK PLACE. BUT APPARENTLY IT WAS A CONTINUOUS MULTIPLICATION THAT OCCURRED AS JESUS CREATES MORE AND MORE FOOD, CREATED IN THE **LORD'S HANDS, HANDING IT TO THE** 12, AND THE 12 WALKED AMONG THE GROUPS DISTRIBUTING THE FOOD.

\*\*\*\* AND THIS WAS NOT A MINIMAL, BUT THE BIGGEST AND BEST PICNIC OF ALL TIME. LOOK AT V. 17 PLEASE.

2. NOW NOT ONLY DID ALL THE PEOPLE THERE EAT, BUT THEY WERE SATISFIED. AND THE GREEK WORD USED FOR SATISFIED WAS USED OF ANIMALS WHO STAYED AT THE FEED TROUGH UNTIL THEY WANTED NOTHING MORE TO EAT.

\* BEYOND THAT, JESUS USES THE SAME TERM IN THE BEATITUDES WHERE HE PROMISES THAT THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR **RIGHTEOUSNESS "SHALL BE FILLED OR SATISFIED"** (QUOTE MATTHEW 5:6)

\*\* AND BECAUSE THE MULTIPLIED BARLEY LOAVES AND FISH WERE DIVINELY CREATED, THE SATISFACTION THE PEOPLE EXPERIENCED MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE NO OTHER IN THEIR LIVES. THIS FOOD WAS PERFECT. (IT WAS PROBABLY BETTER THAN AN IN AND OUT BURGER IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, PROBABLY - MAYBE NOT).

3. BUT NOT ONLY WAS THE FOOD PERFECT, THERE WERE 12 BASKETS LEFT, PROBABLY ONE FOR EACH OF THE DISCIPLES TO EAT SINCE THERE WERE 12 DISCIPLES.

\* NOW AGAIN AN ESTIMATE OF 25,000 PEOPLE BEING FEED THAT DAY IS NOT OUT OF LINE.

\*\* AND TO PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE, IT WOULD BE LIKE GOING TO FAWCETT STADIUM WITH TWO HOT DOGS AND 5 SOFT PRETZELS AND FEEDING EVERYONE THERE, WHICH HOLDS 22,375 PEOPLE, PLUS ANOTHER 2,625 PEOPLE TO MAKE 25,000.

\*\*\* WHAT A MIRACLE. DINNER AND MISSION IMPOSSIBLE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE POWER OF JESUS.

\*\*\*\* NOW TWO MORE APPLICATIONS IN LIGHT OF **OUR TEXT AND WE'LL BE DONE**: (1) NO. 1 I WANT TO SAY, WE ARE TEMPTED TO THINK THAT, HAD WE BEEN THERE THAT DAY AT BETHSAIDA, OUR FIRST THOUGHT WOULD HAVE BEEN TO ASK JESUS TO FEED THE MULTITUDES.

\* I MEAN WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A MORE OBVIOUS SOLUTION THAN TO HAVE THE SON OF GOD CREATE FOOD TO FEED THIS CROWD, JUST AS HE CREATED WINE FOR THE WEDDING GUESTS AT CANA.

\*\* THAT WOULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN A CHALLENGE FOR THE ONE WHO SPOKE THE WORLD INTO EXISTENCE.

\*\*\* YET HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE FACED A CRISIS THAT SEEMED OVERWHELMING AND INSURMOUNTABLE AND FAILED TO CONSIDER **THE LORD'S POWER**.

\*\*\*\* HOW MANY TIMES DO WE PUSH THE PANIC BUTTON? HOW MANY TIMES DO WE FORGET ABOUT THE LORD?

**(2) AND BELOVED, WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS** WE ACT LIKE GOD IS DEAD, OR UNCONCERNED OR IMPOTENT IN TAKING US THROUGH OUR CRISIS.

\* AND ON TOP OF THAT, WHO IS IN CONTROL OF THE CRISIS? THE CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, SOVEREIGN GOD WHO THROUGH A MIRACLE SAVED US.

\*\* BUT THE CRISIS COMES AND WE BECOME **CHRISTIAN ATHEISTS, ACTING LIKE GOD DOESN'T** EXIST AND WE FORGET RATHER THAN FOCUS.

\*\*\* AND WE LOOK AT THE SITUATION WITH PHYSICAL SIGHT RATHER THAN SPIRITUAL SIGHT.

\*\*\*\* LET US BE REMINDED TODAY, THAT OUR ALL-POWERFUL, SOVEREIGN GOD IS NOT ONLY WITH US IN THE CRISIS BUT ALSO WILL CAUSE THAT CRISIS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD.

(3) AND LET US TRUST HIM, FOCUS UPON HIM, PRAY TO HIM, PRAISE HIM AND SEE HIS POWER FIRST RATHER THAN LAST, AND NOT ALLOW SPIRITUAL AMNESIA TO OVERWHELM US.

**\* AND LET US BY GOD'S GRACE NOT BE IN AWE** OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CRISIS BUT IN THE MAGNITUDE OF OUR GREAT GOD AND TRUST HIM.

\*\* LET US LEARN FROM THE DISCIPLES THAT DINNER IMPOSSIBLE IN OUR EYES IS MISSION POSSIBLE IN THE PLAN OF OUR GREAT GOD.

(4) NO. 2. ONE OF THE REASONS THIS MIRACLE OF JESUS HAS SUCH A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR HEARTS IS THAT IT SPEAKS TO SO MANY OF OUR NEEDS.

\* BUT AFTER EVERYTHING ELSE IS SAID ABOUT THIS PASSAGE, THE MAIN LESSON IS SIMPLY **THIS: "ALL WE REALLY NEED IS JESUS CHRIST."**

\*\* **AND I'M TAKING A POINT FROM PHILIP RYKEN'S COMMENTARY ON LUKE AND I QUOTE:**

\*\*\* **"THE MIRACULOUS FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND MET PEOPLE'S PHYSICAL NEEDS. IN FACT, ONCE THEY HAD TASTED THE BREAD THAT JESUS PROVIDED, THEY WANTED TO EAT IT ALL THE TIME. IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, JESUS ACCUSES THEM OF ONLY COMING TO HIM FOR PHYSICAL FOOD. "YOU ARE SEEKING ME," HE SAID, "BECAUSE YOU ATE YOUR FILL OF THE LOAVES" (JOHN 6:26). BUT IF THAT IS ALL THAT PEOPLE WANTED, THEY WERE MISSING THE POINT. "DO NOT LABOR FOR THE FOOD THAT PERISHES, " JESUS WENT ON TO SAY, "BUT FOR THE FOOD THAT ENDURES TO ETERNAL LIFE" (JOHN 6:27). IN OTHER WORDS, THE MEANING OF THE MIRACLE IS SPIRITUAL AND ETERNAL, NOT MERELY TEMPORAL AND PHYSICAL.**

\*\*\* GOING BACK TO THE OLD TESTAMENT, PHYSICAL BREAD WAS ALWAYS A SYMBOL OF SPIRITUAL SUSTENANCE. THIS WAS TRUE OF THE MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS. MOSES TOLD THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL THAT GOD GAVE THEM **SPECIAL BREAD SO THEY WOULD "KNOW THAT MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT MAN LIVES BY EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LORD" (DEUT. 8:3).** SIMILARLY, ISAIAH DESCRIBES SALVATION IN TERMS OF EATING BREAD THAT TRULY SATISFIES (ISA. 55:1-3). BREAD MEANS LIFE, AND THE BIBLE USES THIS PHYSICAL SYMBOL TO SPEAK OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE THAT WE HAVE IN GOD.

\*\*\*\* BY FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND, JESUS WAS TEACHING US TO FIND OUR LIFE IN HIM. WE COULD PROBABLY INFER THIS FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, BUT IN CASE THERE IS ANY DOUBT, THE GOSPEL OF JOHN MAKES IT PERFECTLY EXPLICIT.



1. **THERE JESUS SAYS "THE BREAD OF GOD IS HE WHO COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND GIVES LIFE TO THE WORLD" (JOHN 6:33). "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE" (JOHN 6:35), HE GOES ON TO SAY; "I AM THE LIVING BREAD THAT CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN. IF ANYONE EATS OF THIS BREAD, HE WILL LIVE FOREVER (JOHN 6:51). JESUS IS OUR NOURISHMENT AND PROVISION, OUR SUSTENANCE AND SATISFACTION. "THE HEART OF MAN," WROTE J. C. RYLE, "CAN NEVER BE SATISFIED WITH THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD. IT IS ALWAYS EMPTY, AND HUNGRY, AND THIRSTY, AND DISSATISFIED, TILL IT COMES TO CHRIST." IT IS IN CHRIST THAT WE HAVE THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, AND ALL THE OTHER BLESSINGS OF SALVATION.**

\* JESUS GIVES US THIS LIFE THROUGH HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS AND HIS RESURRECTION **FROM THE GRAVE. LATER HE SAID, "THE BREAD THAT I WILL GIVE FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD IS MY FLESH" (JOHN 6:51).**

\*\* IN OTHER WORDS, HE WOULD OFFER HIS VERY BODY FOR OUR SALVATION. JESUS WAS SPEAKING OF HIS CRUCIFIXION, OF THE LIFE THAT HE GAVE FOR OUR SINS WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS. OF ALL THE THINGS THAT WE NEED TO REMEMBER AND NEVER FORGET, THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT: THE PROVISION OF ETERNAL LIFE THAT COMES BY TRUSTING IN CHRIST CRUCIFIED.

\*\*\* WHAT WE NEED IS JESUS. ONLY JESUS. THE JESUS WHO OFFERS HIS BODY AS THE TRUE AND EVERLASTING BREAD. ARE YOU STILL REMEMBERING THIS, OR HAVE YOU BEEN **FORGETTING?" (END QUOTE)**

\*\* IF YOU TRULY KNOW JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR, HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SATISFY YOUR SOUL, QUOTE PSALM 107:9.

\*\*\* AND MY POINT IS, WE NEED TO STOP EATING THE SPIRITUAL JUNK FOOD OF THE WORLD WHICH IS NOT ONLY NOT GOOD FOR US, BUT NEVER SATISFIES US, WE HAVE THE BREAD OF LIFE.

\*\*\*\* AND LASTLY, IF JESUS IS NOT YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR, YOUR GREATEST NEED IS TO REPENT OF YOUR SINS AND TURN IN REPENTANT FAITH TO THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS AND GIVE YOU ETERNAL LIFE. (QUOTE JOHN 6:35 AND THEN PRAY.)