

Subject: *Christ's Miraculous Meal*

Scripture: *John 6:1-15*

We don't know what Jesus looked like, do we? If that had been important, the Bible would have described His appearance. We do know what His character and ability looked like. We have a clear record of His words and His works, and that is how we know Him. As we journey through the Gospel of John we need to pay attention to everything He said and did, so we can know Him as He truly is, and so we will trust in Him as our Lord and Savior.

This is the fourth miracle recorded in John. Aside from His resurrection and when He raised Lazarus from the dead, this may be considered one of Christ's greatest miracles. First, it is greater in scope and size than any other miracle. He blessed more people directly through this miracle than any other, and more people witnessed this miracle. Second, this miracle is the only one recorded in all four Gospels, which is a testimony of how important it was. Finally, this was a miracle of creation. Jesus did other miracles of restoration (healing, casting out demons, raising the dead), or miracles of transformation (water turned into wine), or miracles of confirmation such as calming the storm or walking on the water. These miracles confirmed His authority over nature.

CHRIST AND THE MULTITUDE (vs. 2-5)

When Jesus arrived at His destination thousands of people were waiting on Him. They were tired and hungry and there was no McDonalds in sight.

- The motives of the people

It was a great multitude that gathered around Him. People saw His miracles of healing and followed Him, mostly out of curiosity. They were attracted to the sensational and supernatural rather than the spiritual. They longed to see more of His works, but had little interest in His words or teachings.

- Christ's mercy for the people

He was always concerned about meeting human needs.

CHRIST AND THE MEN (vs. 5-9)

- The answer of Philip

He asked Philip where they could buy bread. Why Philip? He was from that area and it would have been natural for Jesus to ask him. He didn't ask for information. He was testing Philip. He knew what He planned to do. Like every miracle, this miracle was also pre-planned. Everything Jesus did was according to the Father's divine plan and purpose.

- The question of Andrew

Philip was like an accountant. He was a numbers person. Andrew was like a salesman. He was a people person. He met a little boy who brought a lunch and then he volunteered that boy's lunch. He still had his doubts as to how much good that would do. Philip and Andrew

both miscalculated because they didn't count on God's power to do what was humanly impossible.

CHRIST AND THE MIRACLE (vs. 10-13)

The first thing Jesus did was have the men to sit down. This would show them that they had nothing to do with the miracle. They could rest in His power and His provision. Some of us remember the days of full service gas stations. This wasn't self-service, but full service. Apparently the miracle took place in Jesus' hands.

CHRIST AND THE MISUNDERSTANDING (vs. 14-15)

When they saw this great miracle they wanted to force Jesus to be their king. What could be better than a king who could heal them and feed them? They wanted a king who could provide free health care and free food. Jesus knew their plan and so left them. He was doing the Father's will, not theirs. This was a fickle crowd, not a group of faithful followers (see Jn. 6:66-69). They liked Christ's miracles, but not His message. They wanted a Messiah who met all their needs and made no demands of them.

CHRIST AND THE MESSAGE

Like all other miracles in John, this miracle contains a powerful message. It reveals how Jesus satisfies our desires and needs. We are taught to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." There is no problem too big for the Lord to solve, no hunger too great for Him to satisfy.

- Jesus is faithful to meet all our needs

***Psalms 84:11** For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

***Psalms 37:25** I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

***Philippians 4:19** But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Jesus fed everybody that day. They were all satisfied and ate as much as they wanted (vs. 11). After everybody was full there were twelve baskets of leftovers. There's a lesson in the leftovers. The Lord takes care of His servants.

- Jesus can use you and what you give Him

We think and say the same things Philip and Andrew thought and said. We set limits on what we think Christ can or will do. We say we're too young or too old, we don't have the abilities, or our resources are too little and the job is too big. Next time we start thinking like that just remember what Jesus did with that boy's lunch. Little is much when Jesus blesses and uses it.

- Our greatest needs are spiritual, not physical