

***“Like A Shepherd”***  
***John 6:1-15***

**Introduction:**

1. Please Turn In Your Bibles With Me:
  - To A New Chapter:
    - In The Gospel Of John:
      - John 6!
  - Where We Come To:
    - One Of The Most Famous Miracles Of Jesus:
      - Which Is Found In All 4 Gospels:
        - Known As:
          - The Feeding Of The 5,000!
2. But For John:
  - This Miracle - Like All Of The Miracles:
    - We Have Looked At So Far:
      - Is More Than A Miracle!
        - It Is A Sign!
          - A Sign With Great Significance!
  - It Is A Sign That:
    - Points To Jesus!
      - Proves Who Jesus Is! And:
        - Persuades Us To - More & More:
          - “Believe That Jesus Is The Christ, The Son Of God; And That Believing Ye Might Have Life Through His Name!” (20:31)
3. Now - In Mark’s Account:
  - Of This Long, But Special Day & Night:
    - For Jesus & His Disciples:
      - He Tells Us That When Jesus:
        - “Saw Much People” - He - “Was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd!”
  - And - I Believe:
    - One Of The Main Reasons:
      - For This Sign - As Well As:
        - For The Sayings:
          - That Will Be Coming Up:
            - In This Chapter!
    - Was For Them To See Jesus:
      - As Their Shepherd!
        - And To Draw Them:
          - Closer Into His Fold!
4. And - I Trust As We Go Through:
  - This Familiar Passage:
    - That This Will Happen To You!
      - That You Will See Jesus:
        - As The “Great Shepherd Of The Sheep!”
          - And - That You Will:
            - Draw Closer To Him!
5. Let’s Read John 6:1-15 Together!
  - Now - From The Other Gospels:
    - We Can Get A Fuller Picture:
      - Of The Scene That Just Unfolded For Us!
  - Just Before These Verses:
    - The 12 Disciples Of Jesus:
      - Had Just Returned From A Special Mission:
        - Of Preaching The Gospel:
          - Throughout Israel!
    - And - While They Were On Their Mission:



- Like A Shepherd:
  - Jesus Saw These Sheep:
    - And - Once Again:
      - Had Compassion On Them! Because:
- He Saw Their Great Number!
  - John & The Other Gospel Writers:
    - Tell Us That Jesus Saw:
      - A “Great Company” - Or - “Crowd!”
  - And - A Little Later:
    - John Told Us That The Number Of Men:
      - Who Were There:
        - Was About 5,000!
    - But - Matthew Tells Us That:
      - “They that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children!”  
(Matthew 14:21)
  - So - Some Have Estimated That:
    - There Could Have Been:
      - More Than 20,000 Persons In All:
        - In This “Great Company!”
          - That Is A Great & A Huge Number Of People!
  - And Yet - Jesus Saw Them:
    - And Had Compassion On Them:
      - Because They Were Like Sheep:
        - Without A Shepherd!
    - And - He Wanted Them To Know:
      - That He Was Their Shepherd!
        - Also:
- He Saw Their Great Needs!
  - All Throughout That Day:
    - Jesus Ministered To:
      - Their Need Of Healing!
        - After All - This Is What Drew:
          - Many Of Those People To Him That Day!
    - And Many Still:
      - Needed His Touch Of Healing!
        - As Matthew Records - “And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus’ feet; and he healed them!” (Matthew 15:30)
  - But - Even After All That:
    - Jesus Now Sought To Minister To:
      - Their Need From Hunger!
        - By Providing Them Food!
    - So - Here - He Asked Philip:
      - Who Grew Up In That Area:
        - “Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”
- Like A Good Shepherd:
  - Jesus Saw This Great Crowd:
    - And Sought To Meet:
      - Their Greatest Needs!
        - And - This Is Still The Kind Of Shepherd:
          - Jesus Is!
    - But - Why Would He Do This?
      - In 6:3 - When Jesus Was Sitting:
        - There On The Hill-Top With His Disciples:
          - Imagine Them - 12 In All:
            - Sitting In A Circle:
              - Around Jesus!
      - Jesus Wanted To Draw Some More:

- From That Crowd Of Followers
  - Into His Circle:
    - Of Friends!
- Where Are You Today:
  - In Your Relationship With Christ?
    - Are You Just:
      - One In A Crowd:
        - Of Followers?
  - Or - Are You Enjoying Fellowship:
    - With Christ:
      - As Part Of His Circle:
        - Of Friends?
- Jesus Saw You - As A Sheep:
  - In Need Of A Shepherd!
    - Now - See Him As Your Shepherd:
      - And Draw Closer To Him!
  - But Then - Like A Shepherd:
    - Not Only Did Jesus:
      - See Them! Also:

## 2. ***He Served Them!***

- Which Is What We See:
  - In The Miracle Itself:
    - In 6:11 - “And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would!”
      - Like A Shepherd:
        - Jesus Served These Sheep:
          - And Provided For Their Hunger!
  - In Mark’s Account:
    - He Notes That Jesus:
      - “Commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass!” (Mark 6:39)
    - This Isn’t Just A Reference:
      - To The Place:
        - Where The Miracle Occurred!
          - Or Even:
      - To The Period:
        - When The Miracle Occurred!
  - If Only The Crowd:
    - Could Have Seen Themselves:
      - In That Scene - In Terms Of:
        - Psalm 23 - “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. / He maketh me to lie down in green pastures!”
    - Jesus Was Their Shepherd!
      - And - Jesus:
        - Was Their Lord!
          - And So - He Served Them! He Served Them:
- According To His Providence!
  - When Jesus Took The Bread & Fish:
    - To Distribute To His Disciples:
      - There Are Many Questions:
        - That Go Unanswered:
          - When It Comes To This Food!
            - For Example:
  - How Did Andrew:
    - Know About The Lad:
      - Who Had The “Five Barley Loaves, And Two Small Fishes?” (6:9)

- How Did The Lad:
  - Even Have This Food:
    - When Noone Else:
      - Had Any?
- All Of These Questions:
  - Really Only Have:
    - One Answer!
      - And That Is:
        - Providence!
  - God Brought All These Things Together:
    - At That Specific Place!
    - At That Specific Time! And:
    - For That Specific Purpose!
- And - John Tells Us That:
  - Jesus "Himself Knew What He Would Do!"
    - Like A Shepherd:
      - Jesus Served This Great Crowd:
        - Of Sheep - According To His Own Providence!
        - But Also:
- According To His Power!
  - A Power - That Once Again:
    - Is Almost Glossed Over:
      - In The Miracle!
  - When Jesus Performed The Miracle:
    - In Cana - By Turning:
      - The Water Into Wine:
        - The Miracle Took Place:
          - *As* The Servants Drew Out The "Water That Was Made Wine!" (2:9)
  - When Jesus Performed The Miracle:
    - In Jerusalem - By Healing:
      - The Disabled Man:
        - The Miracle Took Place:
          - *As* The Man Stood Up, "Took Up His Bed, And Walked!" (5:9)
  - So Here Too - In An Almost Imperceptible Way:
    - The Miracle Took Place:
      - 6:11 - *As* Jesus:
        - "Distributed To The Disciples, And The Disciples To Them That Were Set Down!"
  - And - When All Was Done:
    - They All Had:
      - "As Much As They Would!"
        - What Power Was In The Hands Of That Man!
- And So - Like A Good Shepherd:
  - Jesus Saw & Served:
    - This Great Crowd Of Sheep:
      - And Fed Them:
        - In The Green Pastures:
          - By The Sea Of Galilee!
    - And - This Is Still:
      - The Kind Of Shepherd:
        - Jesus Is!
    - Just Think About:
      - How Jesus Has Served You In Your Life:
        - And Continues To!
  - According To:
    - His Own Providence & Power:
      - He Has Given You:
        - Your "Life, And Breath, And All Things!" (Acts 17:25)

- He Has Given You:
  - "Richly All Things To Enjoy!" ( 1 Timothy 6:17)
- He Has Given You:
  - All These Good Things:
    - To Lead You To "Repentance" And Faith In Him! (Romans 2:4)
    - Have You?
    - If So:
- He Has Given You:
  - Who Believe In Him - The Promise To "Supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus!" (Philippians 4:19)
- So - Why Is It That:
  - You Stay In The Crowd:
    - And - Follow Such A Good Shepherd:
      - From Afar!
  - He Has Served You:
    - So That You Might:
      - Draw Closer To Him!
      - And Become Part Of His Close Circle Of Friends!
- What A Shepherd Jesus Is!
  - Not Only Did Jesus:
    - See The Crowd & Serve The Crowded:
    - Also:

### 3. ***He Sustained Them!***

- For The Crowd Of Followers:
  - Jesus Sustained Them:
    - In A Plentiful Way!
  - In 6:12-13 - John Records That:
    - "When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. / Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten!"
  - This Is The Result Of The Miracle!
    - Not Only Was The Crowded:
      - Filled To The Full - And:
      - Were Completely Satisfied!
    - Then - The Disciples Actually:
      - Took Back In More:
      - Than They Gave Out!
  - And - Those Leftovers:
    - Would Have Been Able To:
      - Be Shared With Others:
      - Who Needed Food!
    - 12 Baskets - A Basket:
      - For Each Disciple:
        - To Share! But Even More:
        - A Sign!
    - 12 Baskets - A Basket:
      - For Each Tribe Of Israel:
        - To Show His People That:
          - He Is The One Who - "Satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness!" (Psalm 107:9)
  - Like A Good Shepherd / As The Good Shepherd:
    - Jesus Can Sustain His Sheep:
      - In A Plentiful Way!
        - To Draw Those Who Are Just In The Crowd:
        - To Become Close To Him!
      - But - He Also Sustains His Sheep:
        - Sometimes In:

- In A Perplexing Way!
  - Which Is What We See In:
    - The Minds Of His Disciples:
      - Especially Philip & Andrew!
  - Because - When Jesus Was Proving & Testing Them:
    - By Asking:
      - 6:5 - “Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”
  - Philip Responded:
    - With A Question About:
      - The Ability:
        - To Provide Food:
          - For Such A Crowd!
    - He Told Jesus:
      - In 6:7 - “Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little!”
        - 200 Denarii - 8 Month’s Wages!
        - And Then:
  - Andrew Responded:
    - With A Question About:
      - The Availability:
        - Of Food To Feed:
          - Such A Great Crowd!
      - He Told Jesus:
        - In 6:9 - “There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?”
    - Both Men:
      - Were Genuinely Perplexed!
        - All They Had Were:
          - Empty Pockets & Empty Shelves!
        - But - Even If:
          - Their Pockets Were Full:
            - There Wouldn’t Have Been Enough To Buy!
        - But - Jesus Knew All Of This! And:
          - Jesus “Himself Knew What He Would Do!” (6:6)
            - Not Just To Feed:
              - The Bellies Of The Crowed:
                - To Draw Them Closer:
                  - To Him In Faith!
            - But - Also - To Feed:
              - The Souls Of His Disciples:
                - To Draw Them Closer:
                  - Still!
            - For The Disciples:
              - This Was A Great Impossibility!
                - But - Not For Jesus!
              - As The Puritan John Flavel Once Wrote:
                - “Man’s Extremity Is God’s Opportunity!”
                  - And - This Was When:
                    - Jesus Got To Work!
            - And That Is Why - Like A Good Shepherd:
              - Jesus Saw & Served & Sustained:
                - Not Only That Crowd:
                  - But Even The Circle:
                    - Of His Closest Disciples & Friends!
                - And - This Is Still:
                  - The Kind Of Shepherd:
                    - Jesus Is!
              - Jesus Sustains His Sheep!

- And Now - You Can:
  - Listen To:
    - His Words!
  - Look At:
    - His Works! And:
  - Learn From:
    - His Amazing Ways!
- And - Draw Even Closer:
  - To Him:
    - In Faith & In Love!

**Conclusion:**

1. But - After All Of This:
  - Where Do We Find:
    - Our Good Shepherd:
      - At The End Of This Day?
        - 6:15b - "He departed again into a mountain himself alone!"
    - Once Again:
      - The Other Gospel Writers:
        - Help Fill In Some Of The Gaps!
  - After Feeding The 5,000+:
    - The Lord First:
      - Sent His Circle Of Disciples:
        - Ahead Of Him To Bethsaida:
          - On A Ship!
      - Mark (6:40) Even Tells Us That:
        - He Had To "Constrain" Them To Go!
    - And Then - The Lord:
      - Sent Away The People:
        - So That He Might Go:
          - Further Into The Mountain:
            - "To Pray!" (Mark 6:46)
  - 2. And Yet - Jesus Was Still Alone!
    - As A Good Shepherd:
      - Without Any Sheep!
        - What Happened To The Sheep?
    - They Only Wanted Someone:
      - Who Would Save Them:
        - From Their Enemies!
      - Like The "Prophet" That Was Promised:
        - Back In Deuteronomy 18:15-19:
          - Who Would Be Like Moses!
            - Which Is Why - They Sought To "Come And Take Him By Force, To Make Him A King!" (6:15a)
    - But - What They Really Needed:
      - Was Someone Who Could Save Them:
        - From Their Sin & From Themselves!
          - And - This Is The Kind Of Shepherd:
            - Jesus Came First:
              - To Be!
    - 3. And So - Those Who:
      - Started Out:
        - In The Crowd - Apparently:
          - Stayed In The Crowd!
            - And Did Not Receive Jesus As:
              - The Good Shepherd:
                - He Came To Be!
      - But - What About You?



- Are You Staying In The Crowd?
    - Just Think About How:
      - Jesus Saw You!
      - Jesus Serves You!
      - Jesus Sustains You!
  - And - Draw Even Closer:
    - To Him!
4. For Jesus Is The Good Shepherd!
- Who Even Gave His Life:
    - For His Sheep! For You!

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