

Jesus Feeds the Hungry

John 6:1-15

The Entertainment Driven (John 6:1-4) Jesus and the disciples had been ministering and needed rest. They tried to get away from the crowd, but when they crossed the Sea of Galilee, a crowd awaited them. The crowd were thrill-seekers. They flocked to see His works, but ultimately refused to accept His words. We are very much an entertainment driven society. People that act or play a game are paid millions a year. You can be an influencer on YouTube, playing video games and make millions while our teachers, soldiers, and civil servants are paid very little. *According to the latest consumer expenditure data released by the United States Department of Labor, average entertainment costs registered at \$3,458 per household in 2022. Breaking this down, it means that the average cost of entertainment per month was \$288.17.* If you'll notice, Jesus preaches and teaches to the masses, but separates those entertainment driven individuals with those who are truly interested in being His disciples. Jesus would say hard things such as Luke 9:23-26: ***“And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. 25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? 26 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”*** This happens admittedly after Jesus feeds the 5 thousand in the Luke account. Let's remember we all may come to Jesus hungry for the wrong reasons, yet leave filled with His love, grace, and forgiveness.

The Empty Disciples (John 6:5-9) Jesus was testing Philip's faith. One denarii would have been a day's pay, so 200 denarii would have been eight months of pay. I'm thankful for this illustration, because the largest barrier we face today, is indeed the smallest barrier for God. This is our financial situations. We must be wise, good stewards with money God has given us, yet doesn't it belong to Him already! This isn't a tithing message, but we can see how trusting Him in this situation really is a matter of practicing faith. I believe He'll bless you if you are obedient. The point is that the disciples were looking for practical answers when the supernatural power of God is never practical! We all, like the disciples, have times in which we lack faith. What do we do pastor? I said this last week, but it bears repeating, abide in Christ! Abide through scripture (Romans 10:17) ***“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”*** Abide through prayer (Philippians 4:6-7) ***“do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*** Abide participation in the church (Hebrews 10:24-25) ***“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as***

you see the Day drawing near.” Abide through proclamation. (Acts 1:8) ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*** Being stretched beyond our comfort zone by practicing our designed purpose in Christ, grows us spiritually every time. We see the hand of God and gain increased faith as a result. We are the entertainment driven crowd and the disciples with empty faith, but Christ can change that can’t He? Look at verses 8 and 9; Andrew gets it a little by introducing the disciples to the young man with the 5 loaves and two fish. Let’s see what happens as a result.

The Enormous Dinner (John 6:10-13) Everything I read mentions that this number of 5000 doesn’t include the women and children. So we go from thrill seekers being feed, faithless disciples, who again see the work of Jesus, to possibly 10,000 people being feed and that’s on a conservation estimate. Look at verses 12 and 13. They had gathered 12 baskets full of fish and bread. Why do we put limits on God? We are the disciples with empty faith, we are the entertainment driven crowd, but let us never forget that we are being feed more than enough, by a God who is more than able! It reminds me of Ephesians 2:20 ***“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,”*** Why do we doubt when He has feed us before. Memorial Day is a very important day to honor those individuals who have died serving our country so that we can have the freedoms that we have today. We can worship in freedom, because of the price that many have paid. This memorial of the gun, boots, and helmet, known as the battlefield cross, remind us of their sacrifices. Joshua established the 12 stones in the Jordan river as a memorial of what God had done. You are a living memorial of what God has done! God is more than able and you are proof!

The Eternal King Discovered (John 6:14-15) The Kingship of the Messiah was always supposed to be spiritual, never political. We often try to make Jesus a conquering King, to lay wrath upon our enemies. That in fact will happen in His second coming. Christ came to be King over death, sin, and creation. We must place faith in Him, living life, knowing He is King. Jesus will in fact feed us, but He will feed us what we need and not necessarily what we think we want. Matthew 5:6 ***“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”*** If you want If you want to be fed from Christ, then hunger and thirst for righteousness the way that Christ does. Don’t pursue the things of this world that are fleeting, empty, and never satisfying. ***“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”*** John 6:35