

Remnant Life Church  
August 18, 2019  
**Feeding the Body and the Soul**  
John 6:1-15; 21:1-14

Last week story of the woman who anointed Jesus with oil

- Accounted in all 4 gospels but 3 of this account and the fourth of a different, but similar story
- Mentioned the only miracle of Jesus in all 4 gospels – the feeding of the 5000
- [Matt 12](#); [Mark 6](#); [Luke 9](#); [John 6](#)

**READ** – [John 6:1-15](#)

- There are two times we read of Jesus feeding a great multitude of people
  - The second was a crowd of about 4000 found in [Matt 16](#); [Mark 8](#)
  - In each instance, more than just physical feeding was taking place
- A moment to examine the story in [John 6](#)
  - Jesus has been teaching and performing miracles
    - The limitations of His physical body
    - Not only did He need rest, but He needed to get away from everyone to pray and continue teaching His disciples
  - Jesus had been teaching in and around the northern town of Capernaum and wanted to go straight across to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – a distance of about 4 miles
    - The people who had been following and watching Him in amazement did not want to see Him go
    - They began to travel around the edge of the lake to also make their way across

Topography and details

- At the north end of the lake is the Jordan river that feeds the body of water
- The Jordan is formed by water coming down from Mt Hermon, converging in the Hulah Valley creating the river, which enters the Sea of Galilee flowing out again at the southern end traveling about 90 miles before emptying into the Dead Sea
- Opposite of Capernaum is Bethsaida Julias (which distinguishes it from other towns of the same name) which was Jesus' destination
- Between the town of Bethsaida and the Sea of Galilee is a flat plain or large field that is almost always lush with grass
- The people made a quick journey of the nearly 9 miles to traverse the northern shore and Jesus sees them arriving in this grassy area by the hundreds and thousands
- [John 6:4](#) tells us that the feast of Passover was going to be taking place soon so the number of people in the region would have been greatly increased by traveling pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem
- Certainly, the people would have been tired from their quick, hard trek around the Sea and Jesus had compassion on them

- He turned to Philip and asked about food
  - o Why did He single out Philip?
  - o Very simply – it was his hometown (**John 1:44**)
  - o As were Andrew and Peter
- The 5 loaves and 2 fish
  - o Barley was the food of the very poor
  - o It was also the bread offering for the forgiveness of a woman caught in the sin of adultery
  - o The fish were the size of sardines
    - Hot, arid region fresh fish was a luxury
    - The Sea of Galilee was teeming with these tiny fish that were captured, pickled or salted, and eaten with the dry bread
    - It was not only a very meager meal physically, but one of a very poor people
- Jesus fed the people, but also taught the disciples an important lesson
  - o Philip said there was no way they could feed that many people (**John 6:6**)
    - Again counting the cost first - about 200 Denarii (**John 6:7**)
    - Just like with the woman and the expensive oil
  - o Andrew, showing a little bit of faith, brought a boy who (Andrew says) obviously does not have enough (**John 6:9**)
- The lessons of the miracle
  - o Jesus' compassion for the needy
  - o God's power over all our existence
  - o The power of faith
- The 12 left-over baskets were a visual reminder of a miracle of provision and a blessing of abundance
  - o Each of the doubting disciples was most likely made to carry a basket
  - o To the home of the little boy?

There was another time that Jesus prepared food for others

- He fed the disciples on the same shores of the Sea of Galilee

#### **READ - John 21:1-14**

- We read the Bible through the filter of a 21<sup>st</sup> century mind, but...
  - o They walked everywhere
  - o Always ate outside except when invited into homes
  - o *Al fresco* – Italian for ‘in the fresh air’ (we call it a picnic)
  - o “There are flies in my potato salad”

Notice a few things about this picnic by the lake with Jesus:

1. This is after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus
  - a. Jesus had already appeared to the disciples twice before
    - i. The occurrences are one week apart
    - ii. Both times in the room where they were hiding

iii. **John 20:19, 26**

- b. Notice what they all did - they went back to the old, familiar ways
  - c. The disciples' faith seemed to always be on the edge of collapse (prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit)
  - d. They continued to live in the realm of the natural instead of the supernatural
  - e. So instead of moving forward in their faith, they took a step backward into the comfortable and familiar
2. Jesus confirmed three things by appearing to them
- a. First, He confirmed His resurrection (preparing the meal, eating with them)
  - b. Second, He confirmed His power over creation and, specifically, death
  - c. Third, He confirmed His love for them (He fed them, and He reinstated the embarrassed and ashamed Peter)
3. They were dealing with and experiencing, what on the surface, would appear to have been a total loss or failure of the ministry
- a. Their teacher, their leader and their friend was dead
  - b. Yes, they had seen Him twice in the room where they had been hiding, but did they truly believe in what they had seen
  - c. Perhaps an apparition or ghost, like on the Sea of Galilee when they saw Jesus walking on the water, instead of a genuine physical presence
  - d. And they were dealing with all of the emotions you would expect of men who had just experienced the most incredible 3 years of their lives, and now it was over
4. But what they soon discovered was God's plan and His will for your life are not cancelled or nullified by the events of your life
- a. If you are committed to following Him with your whole life, His will is all-powerful to complete what He desires for your life
  - b. **Eph 3:20** – *He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us*
  - c. Do not lose heart, and do not revert back to the old ways of your life

We may not get to have a meal with Jesus here but...

- One day we will get to eat with Jesus at the great banquet feast in heaven! (**Isa 25:6**)
- Until then, we must live in faith filled with confidence in His will for our lives regardless of the circumstances
- Your circumstances must never dictate who you are
- What determines who you are is the presence of Jesus Christ in your life!