

Remnant Life Church
March 21, 2021
“Supernatural: The Work of Jesus
Pt 2
Feeding the 5000”
John 6:1-13

Series on the supernatural culminating on a teaching on spiritual warfare

- First must understand the natural and the supernatural
- How did Jesus operate in the supernatural?
- What do we think of when we say supernatural?

We are looking at John’s account verse by verse of this miracle of Jesus

1. **Vs. 1** - Jesus is traveling from the west shore of the Sea of Galilee to the east shore
 - a. The importance of asking questions as you read
2. **Vs. 2** - we have the first example of what the supernatural does
 - a. Draws people’s attention
3. **Vs. 3** - Jesus takes the disciples further into that grassy plain to have some time with them alone most likely to teach them
 - a. The needs of others came first - compassion
4. **Vs. 4** - tells us when this was taking place
 - a. Passover – March/April
5. **Vs. 5** – Jesus asks Phillip where they can get food
 - a. Near Bethsaida – Phillip’s hometown
6. **Vs. 6** – a qualifying statement by John
7. **Vs. 7** – But Phillip’s answer is somewhat disheartening
 - a. Phillip leads with his head instead of the spirit of his heart
 - b. The disciples had been witnesses to many miracles by this time yet there was still not enough faith to believe that Jesus was not bound by the natural
 - c. Jesus lived in the natural but operated in the supernatural
 - i. Should we not also desire to live that way?
 - ii. You must first change your thinking regarding the supernatural
 1. It is not only evil spirits, demons, and the occult
 2. Yes, those are elements, but they are the products of the supernatural realm as a result of the counterfeit of satan
 - iii. Jesus was then and is today supernatural
 - iv. IOW – Life in Jesus should be outside the confines of our limited minds and understanding
 - d. But Phillip is stuck in the natural

- i. 8 months wages
 - ii. A laborer's wages for one day in that time was 1 denarius
 - iii. 200 denarii represented 8 months wages
 - iv. A man would need that amount to feed only his family for 8-months, but Phillip's point is even that much food would only provide one bite
 - e. **Vss. 8 & 9** - Andrew helpfully chimes in at this point
 - i. He and Peter also from Bethsaida
 - f. 5 barley loaves and 2 fish belonging to a small boy
 - g. Barley was the grain of the poor because it was so inexpensive due to the abundance in each harvest
 - h. A loaf was normally a fairly small, flat disc of baked dough
 - i. The fish were likely very small and pickled to be eaten with the bread for flavor as well as nourishment
 - j. The word for boy is important here for clarity of the situation
 - i. The word in the original language is pah-dare-cc-on
 - ii. Child or lad – not a youth or young man
 - iii. The young boy emphasizes the meager tools available in the natural to address the problem
 - k. Andrew's point was similar to Phillip's – what is this to so many?
 - l. Both were thinking only in the natural
- 8. **Vs. 10** - shows us the order by which Jesus did things
 - a. He sat them in groups of 100s and 50s
 - i. These are some of the same numbers by which the Israelites were divided when they came out of Egypt – 1000's, 100's, 50's, and 10's (**Exod 18:21, 25; Deut 1:15**)
 - ii. The order of the people is a reference to the order of God in the lives of the people
 - b. This is also, I believe, a very important measure by which we can determine if a supernatural event being witnessed is of God or not
 - c. One very simple question – is it orderly?
 - i. Every supernatural act of God brought peace
 - 1. The disciples caught in the storms (**Matt 8:22-26**)
 - 2. The demon possessed man in the tombs of Gerasenes (**Luke 8**)
 - 3. All examples of how Jesus brought calm and peace to chaotic events
 - ii. Jesus did not make a scene
 - iii. Did not yell, run around, make bizarre sounds, things you regularly see today in ministries that operate heavily in the supernatural
 - iv. IOW – Jesus did not do things to bring the people's attention even on Himself
 - 1. He did not need to
 - 2. To do so would have taken the glory from His Father
 - d. The people sat down and they waited

- i. Waiting well is a necessary component to seeing God move in a supernatural way
 - ii. The timing is always His

- 9. **Vs. 11** - the heart of Jesus
 - a. Always deferring or in this case thanking His heavenly Father
 - b. **John 5:19** - *“Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.*

- 10. **Vss. 12 & 13** - Jesus knew the value of what had happened
 - a. Nothing would be wasted
 - b. Collecting the leftover food and saving it was a Jewish custom
 - i. Not being wasteful with the provisions of God
 - ii. Used again or given to the poor
 - c. This is a demonstration of the social responsibility that Jesus exercised as the perfect man
 - d. But why 12 baskets? (several options)
 - i. A metaphorical demonstration that God’s provision is sufficient for all His people (12 tribes of Israel)
 - ii. His 12 disciples did not have the faith to believe what Jesus would do – perhaps there was one basket for each disciple to fill
 - iii. And perhaps they carried those baskets back to the home of the boy who had willingly surrendered his lunch to Jesus
 - e. When we give what we have to Jesus, He always returns the blessing many times over

What do we understand of the supernatural through this story and what would be wise for us to apply to our own lives?

- The supernatural is not a show or designed to feed our emotion – it has a heavenly purpose
 - There is an emotion but it is not what is most important
 - Jesus had compassion on the people and wanted to meet the need
 - The supernatural was a means to accomplish that task
- The supernatural is a lesson in faith
 - The disciples missed it initially
 - But that did not prevent what needed to happen from taking place
- The supernatural gives glory to God and God alone
 - Not even Jesus took credit for what was happening
 - He thanked God for what they were about to receive
 - Any glory given to the one being used by God is dangerously and wrongly misplaced