

Title: Fish and Chips

Text: John 6:1-14

Take your Bibles and turn with me to the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of John. John chapter 6. In this 4<sup>th</sup> Gospel we have been looking at (1A) THE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF CHRIST.

This is the theme of chapters 1 through 12.

(1B) First of all, we looked at the Person and Power of Christ in chapter 1 verses 1-19.

(2B) Secondly, we looked at how Jesus made Himself known to various people and groups of people in chapter 1 verse 19 through chapter 4 verse 54.

(3B) Today, we enter the third section in our study of John. This third section begins at chapter 5 and goes through chapter 12. And in this section we are going to see a building opposition to the claims of Christ. An opposition that starts to grow and reaches its climax in the crucifixion. So, in the next few weeks we are going to study many wonderful things.

(1C) First of all, we see this building opposition at the feast in Jerusalem. This is taught in chapter 5. I will not teach this chapter. That doesn't mean that it is not important. It is very important. But, I will leave it for your own personal study. I would like to begin this third section by looking (2C) at the opposition facing Jesus in Galilee during Passover. And we will begin with the feeding of the five thousand. Our topic: Fish and Chips. John chapter 6 beginning with Vs 1. (Read Vs. 1-14)

(Prayer)

(1D) The feeding of the five thousand. This is the miracle that caused great opposition to all that Jesus claimed to be. This miracle is different in nature than other miracles that Jesus performed. Yet, a miracle that caused the disciples to realize THE POWER OF JESUS. And seeing this power the disciples continued to grow in their commitment. I

I hope that will happen to us this morning. As we come to understand this miracle, I pray our commitment will grow. So, let's look at it.

(1E) First of all, in verses 1-4, some background material. Three things:

(1F) Number one, the place where this miracle took place. Vs 1 says that Jesus was on the other side of the Sea of Galilee which is also called the Sea of Tiberias. And this little footnote I believe is very interesting. WHY? Because after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Romans, as well as other major cities throughout Palestine, there was one city that remained loyal to the Roman empire. And that city was Tiberias. It was named after Tiberias Caesar. And because of the loyalty of that city the Sea of Galilee was changed to the Sea of Tiberias.

In Vs 3 we are told that Jesus went up on the mountain and there he sat with his disciples. A couple of years ago, when Shirley and I were in the Holy Land we went up on this mountain. It is really a hill that slopes right down to the Sea of Galilee. A beautiful grassy hill.

(2F) The second fact that I want you to notice is the purpose of the multitude in Vs 2.

The Bible says that the multitude was following Jesus, because they saw the signs or miracles which he was performing on those who were sick.

The word for "miracle" is the word "sign" in Greek. And remember again in John 20:30-31, John says about the purpose of this book, that these signs which he choose to communicate to us, are signs that will cause you to believe that Jesus is the Messiah. And that believing you will have life through his name. So, John choose this particular sign that would cause people to believe and to know that He truly was the Messiah.

3F) The third fact that I want you to notice is that the Passover was near according to Vs

4. “The Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.” Now, this is the only record of this account in the four Gospel. But, I believe John records it because he gave the scripture concerning the sermon that Jesus gave on this occasion. And if you have read this chapter you know that the sermon deals with the blood and body of Jesus. Eating bread is likened unto eating his body, and drinking the cup is likened unto his blood. And what a beautiful thing for John to remind us that this was on the minds of all the people. You see, this miracle was no accident. This miracle came right at the appropriate time. Many have suggested that the crowd that Jesus is feeding, here, the reason there was some way is that they had already started their southward march coming down from upper Galilee on the main road that took them along the sea of Galilee to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

(2E) Now, secondly, beginning at Vs 5 – THE FINDING OF BREAD. This is a tremendous story. Vs 5 says: “Jesus therefore lifting up his eyes, and seeing that a great multitude was coming to Him, said to Philip, where are we to buy bread, that these may eat.” Then in Vs 6, we find the reason for the question: “in order to test him.”

(1F) Now, why did Jesus want to test Philip? There are a number of things that I want you to see under this topic of FINDING BREAD. The first being this test that Jesus gave to Philip. Why did Jesus want to test Philip?

Turn back to John chapter 1, please. I want you to see why Jesus wanted to test Philip. John chapter 1 verse 43 says: “The next day He purposed to go forth into Galilee, and he found Philip.” Now, the Bible tells us that all the other disciples are finding

Jesus. But, here, it says that Jesus found Philip. Also, Vs 43 says: “and Jesus said to

him, follow me.” Vs 44: “Now, Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.”

Bethsaida, according to the Gospel of Luke was the place where this miracle of feeding the 5 thousand took place. So, what is the point? If anyone should know where to buy bread it should be the one who lives there, right? Right! Philip was from Bethsaida.

Vs. 45..Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Now, that tells us something about Philip. It tells us that he was a walking computer. No body else says that. No body else gives such a discription But Philip does. "We have found him of whom Moes in the Law and the Prophets wrote: Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Then it was Nathanael who said in Vs 46, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? And Philip said "COME AND SEE." Philip the practical person. "If you don't believe me, come and see."

Now, with that in mind, turn to <sup>John</sup> chapter 12, please. Chapter 12 verse 20, Let's take another look at PHilip and find out why Jesus was testing him. Chapter 12 verse 20..This happened during hhe feast of Passover..(READ VS 20-22)

Now, doesn't that strick you a little funny? Why didn't Philip take those men directly to Jesus? ~~Why?~~ Why did ~~Philip~~ go to Andrew? "Hay Andrew, what are we going to do? These guys want to see Jesus."

And so Andrew, typical Andrew always bring people to Jesus, takes them to Jesus. THIS HE SAID TO TEST HIM.

One more example. Turn over to chapter 14. This takes place at the last Supper. And Jesus had just finished giving His disciples a summary of His second coming and assuring them of His presence.And notice what Philip says. Chapter 14 verse 8.."Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

Completely out of content. We have this discourse on the seconding coming, and Philip responds by saying.."show me the Father."

Remember...COME AND SEE...This is still the same Philip...Show me the Father and I will be happy.

Vs 9.."Jesus said to him, 'Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father."

Now, come back to <sup>John</sup> 6. Vs 6.."THIS HE SAID TO TEST HIM." Philip, this practical person. "Well, if I see it I will believe it." ~~And here he has been~~  
~~waiting and living with the Son of God for three years.~~

And here he has been walking with the Son of God. "He that has seen me has seen the Father." Philip was a practical man who had to learn to believe and to trust the Lord. *and that is why Jesus was testing him.*

Are we not like that? Sure we are. We willn't believe anything unless someone shows us. If you show me, then I will go along with it.

Oh, listen, dear friends, the Bible teaches that "he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. It also says that without faith it is impossible to please God. If you want to ~~please~~ <sup>please</sup> God you have to come and believe that God is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

This is a tremendous passage. He tested Him. *And He will test us.*

(2F) ~~Q1~~ Now, secondly, let's look at the solution of Philip to the question of Jesus, "where are we to buy bread, that these may eat?". What was Philip's solution? Here we see Mr. Practical at work. Instead of facing the issue and saying, "Lord, I don't know how we are going to do it, unless you do something." Instead he said, Vs 7, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little."

Now, there are two problems here with Mr. Practical. First, his conclusion "Lord, ~~we~~ have taken a quick little survey and we don't have enough money. We only have 200 denarii. That is not going to buy very much. And secondly, if we did buy food, it wouldn't ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> enough to fill all these folks up.

Let me ask you a question. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD SUPPLIES LIKE THAT? I just need a little. That is all. Just give them a little bit. It will keep them going for an hour or so.

Just compare that with Vs 12 where it says that they were filled. And there were 12 basket left over. Dear friends, this was a miracle.

Some people believe that the mulitude shared their food that they had with one another. You know, a little crumb here and a little crumb there. There are those who are always trying to remove the miracleous from this story.

No Way! You see, that is what Philip had in mind. We will just give them a little bit here and there.

Do you know what is really funny about this story? When the boy came up and offered his bread, Vs 9, did you notice that it says, "barley loaves?" It wasn't wheat bread that people, . . . It was barley loaves. That which you feed to animals. That is the funny part of this story.

Can you imagine that little fellow bringing those 5 barley loaves. Hay, the animals eat that stuff. But, you watch what Jesus does with it. Isn't that amazing...What a contrast..We don't have enough money to buy the bread we need. Then we get this little boy with "barley loaves."

(3F) O.K. Let's move on. the third thing that I want you to see concerning the finding of bread is the secret of Andrew. The secret of Andrew. There is a secret to Andrew's life that everyone of us should see. Look at Vs 8 and 9

(Read Vs 8-9)

Now, you have to find out from the other Gospels what is going on here. According to the other Gospels Jesus had said to them, "how many loaves are there." Go and See! Let me put in it in modern language. Go out and see if these folks have any food. *Jesus wants everyone to know that this was a miracle*

Philip had just said that the 200 denarii is not going to buy enough bread Jesus said, "Well, I will tell you what we will do. Go find out how much food we have among the crowd. Certainly the people are carrying some food with them. Go out and find out how much they have.

So, they go amongst the crowd and ask. And not one of them comes back with anything, except Andrew. I like that.

Now, put all of this together..Jesus ask Philip to look over the situation. O.K. Philip you are the practical man of the group. Buy some bread. Lord, we only have 200 denarii. We can not buy very much bread with so little money. But we can buy a little or send them away.

And Jesus said, "NO, we are not going to send them away. We are going to feed them. Now, get out there and find out how much bread we have.

And so the disciples go out into the crowd and ask for food. But they can't find any. ~~Except~~ Andrew. Andrew find this little boy with 5 barley loaves and two fish...

And do you know what I like about Andrew? He never depreciated anything. No Sir..He knew that ~~God~~ <sup>Jesus</sup> could take something that was little and make it big. Because that is what he did with Andrew.

This man had an interesting characteristic in his life. Not just bringing people to Jesus. But, realizing what Jesus could do once He got people there. And he believed and trusted in God's power.

People read this story and they say, "Oh, Andrew didn't have much faith. Look at what he said in Vs 9. 'what are these for so many people?'"

But, I believe it is the other way around. I think it is a little pun on Andrews part. He knew what Jesus could do. So, he brought this boy with his 5 barley loaves and two fish.

Hay, man..the other disciples couldn't find anything. But, Andrew did. And that is the secret that all of us have to learn. The attitude of Andrew. I don't care what the circumstances of your life--how large or how small. You know, God takes the small things and makes them big. This characteristic of Andrew's life is wonderful.

(3E) O.K. This brings us to (3E) on your outline. I want to share something with you that is written, between the lines. And that is the submission of this little boy. Now, mind you..this little boy has his lunch here. And there are 5000 men, not counting the woman and children. And somebody wants to take away his little lunch....I mean, dear friends...think about it...You put 2 and 2 together and what is he going to have left.....(ha)

Now, this lunch might be feed for animals...but let me tell you ..it is important to him. It doesn't say so in the text, but I believe this boy was very poor. He wouldn't be eating barley loaves , if he wasn't poor..



And yet, this little poor boy gave all that he had. 5 little barley loaves and two little fishes. Food that you fed to animals. It was all that he had. And he gave it all to Jesus. That says a lot about submission.

(4 E) Fourth, I want you to see three principles about the feeding of the 5 thousand in verses 10-13. Here is the application. *for your Life*

(1 F) The first principle I learn is that I need to surrender to the instructions of Jesus. Surrender to His instructions. All four Gospels say that after Jesus got these loaves, he ask the disciples to have the people sit down. Sit them down in companies of 50 and 100. Now, they didn't argue with him. They knew that when Jesus said something, that they had better do it. Sit the people down. That was no small task to organize all those people in groups of 50 and 100..No Sir...

Dear friends, you have to surrender to the instructions of Christ if you want to see a miracle. Many times we don't understand why He is commanding us to do so and so. But, when you recognize who He is, it doesn't make any difference anymore.

I once said to a person that if the Lord told me to jump of the Golden Gate Bridge, I would do so even if I didn't understand why.

You say, "that is ridiculous." NO, IT IS NOT. I know somewhat of the Word of God. And I know that He wouldn't ask such a foolish thing. But, even if He did, I would. Because, dear friends, Lordship demands obedience. And even if I didn't understand, I know that He knows best for Bill Harrison.

Do you understand the Lordship of Christ? Surrender to His instructions. No matter what they are. Even though you don't understand How they will work out.

(2 F) Secondly, THE SOURCE OF THIS MIRACLE. THE SOURCE. According to Vs 11, Jesus took the loaves and when He had given thanks. Let me ask you a question: DO YOU BELIEVE YOU OUGHT TO PRAY FOR YOUR FOOD? I sure do. The example of Jesus, here, is tremendous. No matter if it is a public resturant or whatever, I am going to thank God for my food

You see, the principle is so clear. A Christian should learn to thank God even though he doesn't know how things are going to turn out. Jesus gave thanks and then He began to distribute the food

(3~~9~~) The third pinciple that I hope you remember is that the supply never runs out. Isn't that great. The supply never runs out. The Bible says that there were 12 baskets left over. And this was after everybody had been filled.

Do you know why there were 12 baskets left over? Sure you do. One for each of the 12 disciples. They didn't believe it could happen. And so Jesus over whelmed them.

Do you know that is the way God's grace works? He just kind-off over whelms you. And here these disciples are --with 12 full baskets. And I believe that those disciples in that moment realized their lack of faith <sup>in</sup> in the person of Jesus Christ.

And you know, I don't think we would have been any different. I think we all would have had our doubts. Yet, in that moment they learned what it was to trust Jesus for everything.

The Bible says in Philippeans 4:19.. "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Praise the Lord. His supply never runs out.

(H<sup>F</sup>E) Then, finally, notice the fiath they experienced. Vs 14 says, "<sup>when</sup>~~then~~ therefore the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is of a truth the prophet who is to come into the world."

And this verse remains me of John chapter 20 verse 30: "These signs have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, and believing you may have life in His name."

What a wonderful story. And I hope you understand it. You see, Jesus wants to give you bread. The bread of everlasting life. And you have to believe in him just as much as those disciples..

LET'S CLOSE IN PRAYER