

## Involved in Something Greater than Yourself

John 6:1-15 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is *the sea* of Tiberias. 2 And a **great multitude** followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. 3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. 4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. 5 When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a **great company** come unto him, he saith unto **Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?** 6 And this he said **to prove him**: for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, **Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient** for them, that every one of them may take a little. 8 One of his disciples, **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad here, which hath **five barley loaves, and two small fishes**: but **what are they among so many?** 10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about **five thousand**. 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.** 12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that **nothing be lost.** 13 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. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, **This is of a**

**truth that prophet that should come into the world.**

15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, **to make him a king,** he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

- Remember that the real purpose of this miracle is to prove once again that Jesus is God in human flesh

- Jesus will turn 5 loaves and 2 small fish into enough food to feed 5,000 men, not counting women and children, and still have 12 basketfuls left over
- They will recognize that He is in deed “that prophet!”
- Notice that He always knew what He was going to do **6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.**
- It was Jesus that blessed the bread and distributed so it was His power not theirs that multiplied the bread
- They were simply allowed to take part in His biggest miracle
- He did the work but they were privileged to take part
- Jesus came to die not to rule in His first coming so He avoids them making Him king
- They wanted to make Him king because He met their needs not because they saw Him as God
- There desire to make Him king was a purely selfish one-what is in it for me
- Is He your king because you want Him to prosper you or because you know that He is God in deed

- Do you come to Him accepting His salvation, repenting of your sin, and trusting Him do use you in any way that He wants?
1. There was a great need
    - a. The great multitude had come to Him
      - i. They only follow Him because of the miracles **2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.**
      - ii. They attack Him when He heals a man at the pool of Bethesda
      - iii. They refuse to come to Him
      - iv. But then their curiosity and desire to see miracles overcomes them and they are following again
    - b. Jesus saw them and wanted to feed them
    - c. The people were hungry
    - d. The numbers were great 5,000 men not counting women and children
    - e. Today we have a world without the gospel
      - i. Those around us often seem not to want to hear
      - ii. We need more churches
      - iii. We need more missionaries

- iv. We need land and building for our own church
- v. So much to do with so little and we are so few that we can become overwhelmed
- f. We are so surrounded by great needs that overwhelm us that we nearly give up on them

## 2. What Jesus asked them to do was impossible

- a. Even if they had 200 pennyworth of bread it would only have given a very small amount to each person **7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.**
  - i. A pennyworth was the pay for a common laborer
  - ii. This is the equivalent of about 8 months of salary
  - iii. Since they worked 12 hour days, 6 days a week this would be about \$13,000
  - iv. So Philip knew that it was not in their budget
- b. Philip, like us, sees what is within his ability and that of his friends the other disciples
- c. There is not enough money to meet the need
- d. There is no where they can go to get the money
- e. There are not enough workers, only 12 apostles

- f. There are not enough resources on 5 small loaves and 2 fishes
  - g. How much do we hinder what God wants to do because we see what is in front of us instead of Him that is above us
3. Basically the disciples cannot believe that Jesus would ask such a thing of them, it is unbelievable
- a. His asking Philip was to reveal Philip's analytical thinking  
**5 When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company** come unto him, he saith unto **Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? 6**  
And this he said **to prove him:** for he himself knew what he would do.
  - b. Doing God's work is outside our ability
  - c. How could so many be fed with such a small amount of resources
  - d. How do you go about organizing this many people
  - e. They were going to have to step outside themselves and allow God to do something through them

- f. They would have to believe God which is what He wants anyway **Hebrews 11:6** But **without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- g. We have to have faith even if it is weak faith. Act on what you know to do
- h. God does operate in and through us based on our faith
  - i. The blind man gets healed according to his faith **Matthew 9:19** Then touched he their eyes, saying, **According to your faith be it unto you.**
  - ii. God's work was hindered because of their lack of faith **Matthew 13:58** And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.
  - iii. Their unbelief shocked Him **Mark 6:5-6** And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed *them*. **6** And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

#### 4. How do we get involved in something greater than ourselves

- a. Let's quit making excuses
  - i. Be bold enough to offer the little you have and see what God will do with it 8 One of his disciples, **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad here, which hath **five barley loaves, and two small fishes:** but **what are they among so many?**
  - ii. Andrew is willing to look like a fool to offer what he has been able to find
  - iii. A lad is willing to give his lunch
  - iv. We do not need to make excuses but instead use who we are and what we have for Him and His causes
- b. Lets determine to find God's will, understand what He wants
  - i. He wants us to get our eyes off of ourselves and see that He can and will do great things 6 **And this he said to prove him:** for he himself knew what he would do.
  - ii. He wants to meet the needs of the people



- iii. We should learn to look out and see other people and their needs just like Jesus did
- iv. We should understand that we have been given much and should be giving much
- v. We can't ignore our responsibility
- c. Let's give what we have and not worry about what we do not have **9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?**
- d. Let's realize that it was the size of the gift but the blessing of Jesus that fed so many **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.**
- e. Let's step out by faith to see what He will do
  - i. It took faith for Andrew to face Jesus and offer so little
  - ii. It took faith for a lad to give his lunch
  - iii. It took faith to step out and begin serving the multitude
- f. Let's step out and see what God can do

- i. It will be far more than we will ever be able to do
- ii. We will be excited and blessed as we see the great work that He does

## 5. Great truths to remember

- a. It is really about showing how great our God is and not our great giving or sacrifice
- b. It is about Jesus showing everyone that He really was God that day
- c. God can use me even though I do not have very much to offer
- d. It could be that right now is a test where He is proving me to see if I will trust Him and step out by faith
- e. Will I allow my lack of faith to hinder God's work in my life and in our church?
- f. Do I really want to just make Jesus king so that I can reap the benefits?