

5 loaves and 2 fish

JOHN 6

6 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick.

3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

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10 Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

This is a major event since it is in all the Gospels, even raising the dead does not make it in all, the gospels

Why is it so important?

***There are like ten things that are mentioned In
all four Gospels***

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Jesus Foretells of a Betrayer in the Midst

Peter Denies Jesus

Pilate Pronounces Sentence Upon Jesus

They Crucified The King of The Jews

Jesus Dies

Jesus is Buried in a Tomb

They Went to the Tomb

The thing about that list, to be in all four of the Gospels that means it is very important,

The only miracle that is mentioned in that list is the feeding of the five thousand

Enduring word John 6:1-4

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee: John now records some of the acts and words of Jesus in the Galilee region, north of Judea. John mainly recorded things that Jesus did and said in Judea and Jerusalem, but sometimes included material that the other gospel writers also wrote of, mainly in the Galilee region.

Then a great multitude followed Him: This miracle is also recorded in the other three Gospel accounts. Luke mentioned that on this occasion Jesus went out to a deserted place to be alone (Luke 9:10), yet the crowds followed Him there. In spite of this imposition, Jesus still served the multitude with great compassion.

They saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased: Luke 9:11 tells us that Jesus also taught this multitude, something that John doesn't specifically mention.

*The Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near:
John is the only one of the four Gospel writers
who told us this took place near the time of the
Passover. Perhaps this great multitude was made
up of Galilean pilgrims on their way to
Jerusalem.*

Passover is associated with the Exodus and God's sustenance of Israel in the wilderness. Jesus would soon sustain this multitude in their small "wilderness" with bread from heaven – both literally and spiritually.

Went up on the mountain: “The ‘high ground’ is the sharply rising terrain east of the lake, well known today as the Golan heights. From there one overlooks the level plain east of the river and the lake.” (Bruce)

Mark 6

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. 31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

*Some of the Gospels make a point that the disciples just returned from being set out
We see in Mark the Disciples return and are telling Jesus about all that they had done!*

THEIR FAITH WAS PEEKING ! THEY HAD DONE SOME AMAZING THINGS!

ENDURING WORD

*Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?
Perhaps Jesus asked Philip this question because
he was from Bethsaida (John 1:44) and this was
near where this miracle took place (Luke 9:10).*

“John does not say, as Mark does (Mark 6:34 f.), that the crowd had been listening to Jesus’ teaching all day, but this explains his concern about feeding them.” (Bruce)

***Matthew 14 : 13-21 and Luke 9 :10 -17 also mentions that they had been with them all day
Luke also mentions that they had just returned from being sent out***

The testing of Phillip, with their faith all pumped up Jesus tests their faith!

Jesus shows them that they need to take their faith to the next level

Jesus knew what miracle He was about to perform, but wanted to use the opportunity to teach His disciples. For Jesus this wasn't only about getting a job done (feeding the multitude), but also about teaching His disciples along the way.

Philip had already seen Jesus do many miracles; there should have been no question to him about the divine resources Jesus had.

Their problem was in at least two parts. First, they didn't have the resources to buy bread and to feed the multitude. Second, even if they had the money it would be impossible to purchase enough bread to feed them all.

With greater faith and knowledge, Philip might have said: “Master, I don’t know where the food is to feed this crowd but You are greater than Moses whom God used to feed a multitude everyday in the wilderness, and God can certainly do a lesser work through a Greater Servant.

You are greater than Elisha, whom God used to feed many sons of the prophets through little food. What is more, the Scriptures say that man shall not live by bread alone, and You are great enough to fill this multitude from the words of your mouth.”

Philip thought in terms of money; and how much money it would take to carry out God's work in a small way,

We often limit God the same way, looking for how God's work can be done in the smallest way. Jesus wanted to use a completely different approach and provide in a big way.

In the Talmud, there is a passage where one man said, “There is a fine crop of barley” and another man answered, “Tell it to the horses and donkeys.”

“Barley scarcely bore one-third of the value of wheat in the east: see Revelation 6:6.

Ezekiel 13:19, where the false prophetesses are said to pollute the name of God for handfuls of barley, i.e. for the meanest reward.” (Clarke)

There wasn't much to work with, but God doesn't need much. In fact, God doesn't need any help – but He often deliberately restrains His work until He has our participation.

Jesus was in no panic or hurry. He had a huge catering job to fulfill, but went about His work in an orderly way, making them sit down upon the grass.

Great point, God is not a God of Confusion

The points that we could talk about-

Jesus the bread of life!

The fact that this feeding of the five thousand and the lords supper take place at the beginning of the Passover, and how the lord provides

Massive point little is much when God is in it!

Think about the multitude of people it could have been more than 15,000 people!

It takes about one acre of land to cater an outdoor event of five thousand people

***There is so much more that could be brought up
from this great event!***

***This is a big thing in the new covenant!
(testament)***

***Compare the media coverage of Lazarus
Or Jesus walking on water!***

There are so many other things that don't get the media coverage that the feeding of the five thousand does!

Think about the disciples they had faith, but this testing Jesus is asking, just how much faith do you have?

That is something that we all should be asking ourselves, where do we put a limit on what God can do? This miracle is important because of the timing ! Just before the Passover, the lord's supper just before the Passover

JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE!