

LESSON EIGHT

JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000

JOHN 6:1-15

1. **Prayerfully read and re-read the passage.** Who are the characters in this miracle story? Where does it take place? When is this happening? This miracle of Jesus is the only one besides the resurrection of Christ that is repeated in all four Gospels. Compare John's version with Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, and Luke 9:10-17 and note the similarities and the differences.
2. **What else is going on?** Notice what is happening before this miracle story. **Read John 5:39-47.** What is Jesus saying the Pharisees believe?

NOTE:

As a reminder, the Gospel of John includes the miracles of Jesus that are intended to teach us a spiritual truth about our salvation (see John 20:31).

3. Where do Jesus and His disciples go after they have had a full day of ministry?

Why does the large group of people follow Him?

BIBLE DICTIONARY:

Two Hundred Denarii one denarius was equal to one day's wage. Philip's estimate is that it would take more than seven months of an average salary to feed all the people.

Five Thousand not including women and children—more accurately, approximately 20,000 people.

4. How does Jesus use this impossible situation to test and train Philip and the other disciples?

OWNING THE PASSAGE:

Have you ever been asked by Jesus to do something when you felt utterly incapable of it? What did you learn from that experience?

5. Read Exodus 16:1-5, 13-18 and 2 Kings 4:42-44.

a. What two prophets are mentioned in these Old Testament verses?

b. How might this miracle of Jesus remind the people of them and why?

c. What was Moses' prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:15-18?

6. What is the response of the people to Jesus after this miracle?

And how does Jesus react? Why?

OWNING THE PASSAGE:

Jesus cares deeply about meeting our needs. Sometimes, like the people in the crowds following Jesus, we desire more. In what areas of your life do you need to trust in God's larger Kingdom purposes and feed on Jesus as your daily bread?

7. Jesus explains the meaning of this miracle in John 6:22-59. How do you see this miracle as a "trail of breadcrumbs" to Jesus as the Bread of Life?

EXPLORE MORE:

- A. The insincere and apathetic crowds play an interesting role in the Gospel accounts. In their nationalistic zeal, the crowd in this story had perceived that Jesus was a messiah who would meet their physical, political, and military needs. John tells us that after the miracle, "they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king..." **Read Psalm 73:23-28.** What is it that God's true people have always known about Him that the miracle was meant to teach?
- B. Because Jesus is our all-sufficient Lord, He demands exclusive ownership of our lives. There are many influences in our lives that draw us away from feeding only on Him and abiding solely in Him. What are some of the things on which we are currently feasting but from which we should be fasting?

C. Read Revelation 3:20. Knowing that this is our Lord's desire, what steps of spiritual discipline will you take today to participate in this intimate fellowship?