

- I. Please turn with me to the Gospel of John, this morning, we are going to begin our study by reading *John 6:1-14*
 - a. In John Ch. 6, we find recorded for us the “Feeding of the Five Thousand” – a very popular, well known miracle performed by the Lord Jesus
 - i. Throughout His earthly minister, the Lord Jesus performed many miraculous signs and wonders
 - ii. Whether it was walking on water, calming a raging storm, healing the sick and lame, cleansing Lepers, opening the eyes of the blind, or raising the dead, Jesus performed many miracles throughout His earthly ministry...
 - b. Now, these miracles that Jesus performed serve as strong pieces of evidence confirming His identity
 - i. You see, Jesus not only claimed to be God, but He offered conclusive evidence proving that He was God through His miraculous works...
 - ii. In **Acts 2:22**, the apostle Peter made this argument to the Jews, “***Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst***”
 - iii. This is what separates and distinguishes Jesus from a host of other founders of world religions, e.g. Buddha, Confucius, Muhammad, Dalai Lama, Lao Tzu etc.
 - iv. These Men did not perform any signs or miracles to confirm their message or claims – “***Interestingly, according to the Quran, Muhammad did not perform any miracles Cf. Surah 29 verse 50***”
 - v. Yet, Jesus not only performed miraculous works, but He declared that He should be judged on the basis of those works, “***If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.***” – **John 10:37-38**
 - c. Now, the good news is that Jesus is still performing miracles today – “How many know that the Lord Jesus is still performing miracles today?”
 - i. I personally believe that the greatest miracle Jesus performs is the miracle of a changed life – “**Complete Transformation. Amen.**”
 - d. So, to get back to our text, here in John Chapter 6 we read of Jesus’ miracle of the “Feeding of Five Thousand”
 - i. Now, of all the miracles that Jesus performed, this miracle in particular is very significant/important
 - ii. You see, this is the only miracle, other than Jesus’ resurrection, that is mentioned in all four Gospels (Matt. 14; Mark 6; Luke 9; John 6)

- iii. If the Bible mentions something once, it is true, if the Bible mentions something more than once, it is important
- iv. I don't think it was by coincidence or chance that the Holy Spirit chose to record this miracle on four separate occasions...
- v. However, through this miracle, the Holy Spirit wants to teach us many things about the *Person of Christ*, about the *Christian walk*, and about *Christian service*
- e. Therefore, for the next few weeks, I want to take the time to study this glorious miracle of the "Feeding of Five Thousand"
 - i. And this morning, I am going to begin by sharing with you "**Three Things**" found in this section of Scripture – Let's begin

II. 1st – "The Compassion of Christ"

- a. In verse 2, we read, "Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased"
 - i. Now, although John does not mention it in his account, Mathew and Mark tell us that as Jesus saw the multitudes following Him He was moved with compassion for them...
 - ii. In **Mathew 14:14**, Mathew tells us, "***And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick***"
 - iii. In **Mark 6:34a**, Mark tells us, "***And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them...***"
 - iv. Throughout his ministry, the Lord Jesus always showed indescribable compassion and affection for the people (*He had a compassionate heart*)
 - v. Often times, His compassion for the people motivated Him to minister to the needs of the people...
 - vi. Jesus was always sensitive to the needs of the others, and He wasn't afraid or hesitant to reach out and meet those needs
 - vii. Jesus is a *compassionate* Savior, a *merciful* High Priest, a *generous* King, who is willing to help the hurting and save the lost
- b. Now, in the same way, we must have compassion on others and be compassionate Christians
 - i. Christians who are willing to go out of their way to help, assist, and aid those who are in need i.e. **willing to reach out to the lost**
 - ii. The world is filled with hungry, hurting, discouraged, depressed, abandoned, lost, dying people...
 - iii. And as the church of Jesus Christ, God has called us to have compassion on them and reach out to them with arms of love
 - iv. **1 Peter 3:8a** declares, "***Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another***"

- v. Jesus Christ wants to continue His ministry of compassion through you – He wants to use you as an “*Instrument of Compassion*” to relieve the pain of a hurting generation (***one life at a time***)
- vi. William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, declared, “*While women weep, as they do now, I’ll fight; while children go hungry, as they do now, I’ll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, as they do now, I’ll fight; while there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while their remains one dark soul without the light of God, I’ll fight; I’ll fight to the very end!*”
- c. May the “Father of compassion” and the “God of all comfort” give us the grace and heart to be compassionate to a hurting, lost world

III. 2nd – “The Testing of Philip”

- a. In verses 5-6, we read, “Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?’ But this He said to **test him**, for He Himself knew what He would do”
 - i. As Jesus was seeing the multitude of people approaching Him, John tells us that Jesus went to Philip and asked him a question
 - ii. The Lord declared, “*Philip, where are we going to buy bread for all these people can eat?*”
 - iii. Now, Philip was from Bethsaida, the place where this miracle took place, so if anybody knew where to get bread it was Philip...
 - iv. However, John tells us that that wasn’t the reason why Jesus asked Philip, but He was testing Philip...**testing Philip’s faith...**
- b. Throughout the Scriptures, we find many instances where God tested His people – tested their faith, their obedience, their faithfulness, etc.
 - i. One particular instance that stands out in the Scriptures is the “*Testing of Abraham*” found in Genesis Chapter 22
 - ii. Genesis Chapter 22 begins with the words, “*Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham*”
 - iii. Even the father of the faith, Abraham, the friend of God, had his faith tested by God...
 - iv. And like Abraham, Philip, and many other Saints mentioned in the Bible, your faith and obedience will also be **tested** by God
 - v. As a Christian, you will be tested, you will be tried, but take courage, don’t be afraid, the testing is for your benefit and advantage
- c. You see, it is through the times of testing that God will teach you many valuable lessons and bring you into a deeper relationship with Him
 - i. He will teach you that He is in control, He will teach you that He is with you, He will teach you that He is faithful, He will teach you to trust in Him, He will teach you to walk by faith and not by sight, etc.

- ii. May we never forget that we serve a God who can do the impossible, nothing is impossible for Him, and all He asks us to do is trust in Him...
- d. When the time of testing comes, don't make the same mistake that Philip made:
 - i. Philip, looking through the eyes of the flesh, declared, "*Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them...*"
 - ii. But look through the eyes of faith, which declares, "*Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.*"
- e. Yes, times of testing will come, but when they pass, you will come out a better, more Christ-like Christian, therefore, welcome them w/ open arms

IV. 3rd – “The Ministry of Andrew”

- a. In verses 8-9, we read, “One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, ‘There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?’”
 - i. John tells us that as Jesus was talking to Philip, Andrew approached the Lord and told him, "*There is a lad who has five barley loaves and two small fish*"
 - ii. Amongst the multitude, Andrew noticed a small boy who had a small lunch, and immediately, Andrew brought the boy to Jesus
 - iii. This was the best thing that Andrew could have done...
- b. Throughout the Gospel of John, we learn a little bit about the ministry of the apostle Andrew – “He had a beautiful ministry of bringing people to Jesus”
 - i. Every time we read about Andrew in the Gospel of John, we find him bringing someone to Jesus...
 - ii. He brought his brother Peter to Jesus (1:41-42), He brought this young boy to Jesus (6:9), and He brought some Greeks to Jesus (12:22)
 - iii. Everywhere Andrew went, He simply wanted to bring someone to Jesus – "*This is a ministry to be admired and desired*"
- c. The greatest ministry you can have, and the greatest service you can offer, is bringing people to Jesus
 - i. Listen, our lives should serve as one big “sign” pointing people in the direction of the Savior i.e. bringing people to Jesus
 - ii. Whether is it by words, by actions, or by deeds, we should always be lighting up the path that leads to Jesus
 - iii. The world we live in is engulfed in darkness, and the only way people are going to see the light of Christ is if they see it in you...
 - iv. The world must see Christ in you – they are not going to see Christ in the secular music, literature, movies, culture, or entertainment
- d. Therefore, make sure you are shining bright for Christ, and pointing people in His direction
 - i. **Mathew 5:14** – "*You are the light of the world...*"

- ii. In the Gospel of Mathew, we are told that wise men from the east were guided by a Star and brought to the place where Jesus was at
- e. This week, be a star, shine bright, and guide people to Jesus – “He is what they are looking for!”

V. Next week, we will continue our study on the *Feeding of the Five Thousand* – **Let’s pray and prepare our hearts to take Communion (*Call Jonah*)**

- a. After Prayer, ask Jonah to play a song, and call all those who are going to be partaking of Communion up to the front
- b. **1 Corinthians 11:23-24** – *“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’”*
- c. Let’s partake of the bread...
- d. **1 Corinthians 11:25-26** – *“In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”*
- e. Let’s partake of the juice...