

The Book of John - 33

Introduction - In the previous lesson, we looked at the introductory verses in **John chapter 6**. In **verse 1**, John gives us the location of this section of Scripture: the sea of Galilee. In **verse 2**, we are then told that multitudes of people were following after the Lord. In **verses 3 and 4**, the Bible says, “Jesus went up into the mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. And the passover, a feast of the Jews was nigh.”



In this first section, we see the demonstration of the Lord’s power in miracles.

The Demonstration of His Power In Miracles vs. 1-21

1. The Feeding of the 5000. vs. 1-15

Notice first of all:

The Problem _____

John 6:5–6 “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.”

As we think about this situation, we should understand that this world has great needs. Wherever man is, there is **great need**. **Verse 10** of this chapter tells us that **5000 men** were present that day. In Matthew’s record, the total number would be **over 5000**.

Matthew 14:21 tells us, “21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, **beside** women and children.”

In **Mark chapter 6, verses 39 and 40**, we read, “39 And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. 40 And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.” (**Mark 6:39-40**)

Sitting in such a fashion would make it easier to count the people and for the disciples to distribute the bread and the fish. (This tells us that our God is a God of order. And we ought to minister to people in an orderly way.) The Lord presents this problem to Philip and all the disciples to **teach them**.

In **Mark 6:35–37**, “35 And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed: 36 Send them away [**speaking of the great company**], that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and **buy themselves bread**: for they have nothing to eat. 37 He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go

and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?"

The question the Lord asks is pertinent to you and me today. **How will the needs of men be provided for?**

John gives us some insight and tells us, "*...this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.*"

The word 'prove' means to **test objectively**. This testing is **for the disciple's benefit**. You and I can take heart knowing the Lord teaches us. We see not only the problem presented but secondly:

The Practical _____

John 6:7 *"7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little."*

Philip did not respond to the situation in faith. Instead, he attempted to determine what it would take for man to solve this problem. This solution was a **practical solution**. According to Phillip, purchasing bread for the multitude would take 2/3 of an entire year's wages. However, Philip also states that even that amount **would not** provide for the whole multitude. In other words, the practical solution, the solution that man can come up with, **vastly comes short of what is needed**. Ultimately, we think about the source of all these issues: sin. **The sin problem cannot be dealt with without the Lord.**

Imagine yourself in this situation; what would be your response? We can make applications in our lives, can we not? With the "problems" of life, are we trying to come up with just a **practical solution**?

There is a difference between someone who is a biblical leader and someone who is simply a man of practicality without God.

The Biblical Leader **begins with God.**

The Pragmatist **begins with man.**

The Biblical Leader **does a work of faith.**

The Pragmatist **does a work of sight.**

The Biblical Leader **believes, "If it is right, God will bless it."**

The Pragmatist **believes, "If it works, it must be right."**

The Biblical Leader **is obedient to God.**

The Pragmatist **is in competition with others.**

The Biblical Leader **desires God to be glorified.**

The Pragmatist **desires the approval of man.**

The Biblical Leader is **Christ-centered**.
The Pragmatist is **man-centered**.

The Biblical Leader **serves God**.
The Pragmatist **serves self**.

The Biblical Leader **lives a life of “simplicity and godly sincerity.”**
2 Corinthians 1:12
The Pragmatist **lives a life of complexity**.

(Chart by Dr. Clarence Sexton, *Our Vision of God*)

Notice secondly,

John 6:8–9 “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?”

Some see in Andrew’s comment a healthy optimism. But regardless of what you call it, in the end...it is insufficient for the task... One glimmer of hope we see is that Andrew brought people to the Lord. There are three instances in the New Testament where Andrew brings others to the Lord.

1. Andrew brought Simon Peter to the Lord, as we saw in **John 1:41**.
2. Here, Andrew brings this lad to the Lord. (**John 6:8-9**)
3. Andrew brings some Greek worshippers to the Lord in **John 12:20-22**.

Not only do we have the practical prescription, but now we see:

The Perplexing _____

A pessimist always thinks the worst of any situation. While we might not classify Andrew as wholly pessimistic— we can see certain aspects of pessimism in his statement. One of the synonyms for pessimism is doom and hopelessness. It also gives the idea of doubt. Andrew offers what he believes to be a **hopeless solution**. Again, another big principle we can glean from this classroom of the Lord is that **there is hope in Him**. The world has **no hope**. Christians, **unfortunately, sometimes feel as if there is no hope**. **Hope, my friend**, is a product of our life in Christ. The world offers ‘temporary hope,’ but the Lord provides real hope.

In his closing salutation in **Romans 15:13**, Paul stated, “13 Now **the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost**.”

The writer Hebrews tells us that our hope, rooted in the Lord Jesus Christ, is an anchor for our souls.

Hebrews 6:18–19 *“18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19 **Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;**”*

The one whose faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ will **exhibit stability**. Hope gives us stability.

We will close with the blessed hymn we sing, “We have an anchor.” The words come from this verse in Hebrews —it states,

“We have an anchor that keeps the soul.
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Savior’s love.”

Later in the chapter, the disciples will need some stability as they face the stormy waters of the Sea of Galilee. It is helpful, is it not, to have hope and stability in the midst of the storm?

