

# The Book of John - 34

**Introduction** - We have looked at the beginning verses of John 6, which deal with the miracle feeding of the 5000.

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

In feeding the 5000, the Lord **publicly reveals His power** for all to see. With the miracle of the Lord walking on water, the Lord gives His disciples a **private revelation of His power**.

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

In **verses 5 and 6**, we have **The Problem Presented**.

In **verse 7**, we see **the Practical Prescription**.

We noted that in this response, we see **what man can do**. However, the solution (200 pennyworth of bread) fell short of providing all that was needed.

In His commentary on the subject, John Philips states that often **200 is the number of insufficiency** in the Scriptures.

He cites first the story of Achan and his **200 stolen coins (Joshua 7:20-21)**.

The apostate Micah and his mother took **200 shekels and made an idol. (Judges 17:4)**

Absalom's polled **hair weighed 200 shekels (2 Samuel 14:26)**. Absalom attempted to wrest the throne from David, but in the end, He was defeated.

The demonic armies of **Revelation 9:16** number 200 thousand thousand—and though they are allowed of God to slay the wicked men on the earth— they are no match for the King of kings... the ruler over all heaven and earth.

The second solution presented in **verses 8 and 9** is a **Perplexing Pessimism**. This response signified a **hopeless situation**. Both Philip and Andrew, in their response, indicate that they **could not** meet the needs of the multitude.

“The idea of feeding all the people was wholly illogical both to Philip and Andrew.”  
(Phillips)

We also see that Andrew, to His credit, brought a **lad and his small provision to the Lord**. The Bible uses a word that signifies a young boy (παιδάριον paidarion). (παιδάριον paidarion is in contrast to another NT word that is often translated the same way—τεκνίον teknion, which is a more **generic word for child** — and is also used, for instance, in **1 John** where John is speaking to Christians with affection. ‘Little Children’ [1 John 2:28] see also **John 13:33** and **Galatians 4:19**)

Often in the Scriptures, God heaps abundant honor upon the nameless ones He uses. This young man will forever be known as the boy who gave his lunch to the Lord.

Naaman's nameless servant girl. **2 Kings 5:1-14**

The widow of Zarephath. **1 Kings 17.**

The Centurion of great faith. **Matthew 8:8-10**

We think of **the paralytic and borne of his four friends** in **Mark 2.**

In **Mark chapter 7:24-30** we are introduced to a woman called the Syrophenician Woman.

The **Shepherds** in **Luke 2.**

We also think about the woman at the well in **John 4 who remains nameless.**

Not much is said about this young man, yet we have his record. How many sermons have been preached about the boy who gave his lunch?

"Barley was the food of the poor. The loaves were small flat barley wafers; the fish were about the size of small sardines." (Phillips)

So far, we have seen the **problem presented**, the **practical prescription**, the **perplexing pessimism**, but now we see:

## The \_\_\_\_\_ Provision

### What is the proper provision?

—Philip determined his figures were short, and Andrew determined the lad's meager meal was insufficient.

The Bible tells us in **verse 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.*"

We are reminded again of what is said in **verse 6**, "*And this he said to prove him: for **he himself knew what he would do.***"

The Lord knew all about the lad's small meal. The Lord knew about Philip's arithmetic. The Lord knew about Andrew's hopelessness, and the Lord knew about the silence offered by the rest of the disciples. None of this was a surprise. It was a surprise to the disciples...it was a surprise to this lad called on by Andrew.

The proper provision is not a morsel of bread-- but **the Lord Himself.**

The Bible tells us in **Psalm 78:19**, "*19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?*" The proper provision is **given to the Lord in faith, waiting on Him.**

The Proper Provision:

- Came with the **surrender of the lad**. (vs. 8-9)
- Came with the **wavering faith** of the disciple Andrew. (vs. 8-9)
- Came after **simple obedience**. (vs. 10)

This simple obedience is seen in the disciples as well as the multitude. The disciples facilitated the organization and the seating of the crowd.

**Mark 6:39–40** states, “39 And he [the Lord Jesus Christ] *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.*”

It amazes me how sometimes we expect God to do amazing and wonderful things, yet **we will not obey Him**.

- Came from **the hands of the Lord**. (vs. 11)

The Bible tells us here in **John 6:11**, “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.”

God often takes what is small and does something mighty for His glory.

The Lord used the tears of a baby to draw Pharaoh’s daughter. (**Exodus 2:6**)

The Lord used a simple rod to encourage Moses and bring mighty wonders upon Egypt. (**Exodus 4-14**)

The Lord used a simple stone and a sling to defeat the enemy giant Goliath. (**1 Samuel 17**)

The Lord used one man from Ur of Chaldees (Abram-Abraham) to bless all nations. (**Genesis 11:28-31**)

Similarly, the Lord called one man (Noah) and His family to build an ark to save humanity. (**Genesis 6**)

The Lord took an outcast (Joseph) of his own family and made him the ruler of Egypt. (**Genesis 41**)

The Lord used a shepherd, a ruddy boy (David)— and made him king over God’s people. (**1 Samuel 16:7, 11-12**)

- Came with **thanks to God** (vs. 11)

I want you to realize that even the lad’s little lunch had **come from God**. Now, I wonder how many were truly thankful at first for the small amount that was found. Sometimes, we **complain about** what we do not have rather than **giving thanks to God** for what we do have.

- Came through **the ministry (service) of the Lord's disciples** (vs. 11)  
The work of providing (ministering) was not given to others; it was given to the disciples from the hands of the Lord. **God's work in this world is to be done by God's people.** (vs.10-11) When it comes to **what the Lord wants done**, we are His servants.
- Came to those who **were willing to receive it.**
- Came **in abundance** and **satisfied completely.** (vs. 11)  
“The word translated as filled (ἐμπίπλημι- empiplēmi) has the sense of being satisfied.... Truly, when God supplies, it is exceeding abundant and above all that we ask or think. Twelve baskets are gathered up.” (Sorenson)

**John 6:11** says, *“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.”*

When we consider the initial statements by the disciples, their attempts to provide for the multitude were in consideration of **just providing the minimum.**  
Here, we see the Lord provides **as much as each need.**

- Came **orderly and was not wasteful.**