

"Feeding of the Five Thousand"

Text: John 6:1-13

Intro:

*Find the account in other three gospels. - Must be very important!

*Mt. 14:15-21; Mark 6:30-44; & Luke 9:12-17.

*Notice Some Bible truths.

*Dispensationally or doctrinally still under O.T. Law.

*Prior Chapter 5, Jesus healed impotent man at Jerusalem, center of Jewish worship on the sabbath.

*Jesus challenged by Jewish leader for doing this.

*Great multitude that followed Jesus must have been Jewish.

*Why? - Jn. 6:2 - "great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles".

*I Cor. 1:22 - "For the Jews require a sign"

*Signs/miracles given so Jews would believe the message and the messenger

*They didn't have the full written revelation of God from Genesis to Revelation.

*Jn. 6:4 - Read. - "Mentions feast of the passover"

*If Gentile crowd, why bother to mention.

*Although, doctrinally passage in John applies to Jews, the nation of Israel under the O.T. Law.

*Still can make spiritual application to the Christian under N.T. grace.

I. Christ's compassion vs. Apostles compassion.

A. Mt. 14:15 - read.

*The setting:

- "it was evening" (Luke 9:12 - "when the day began to wear away")

- So, it was around supper time.

- "the time was now spent"/Mk 6:35, "time is far passed"

- crowd had been following Jesus around all day.
- Probably, tired and hungry.
- "this is a desert place" - no markets around to buy food.
- Tired hungry crowd, no place near by to buy food.

B. Mt. 14:15 - read

- *Apostles lack of compassion.
- "his disciples came to him saying...send the multitude away,"
- Mk. 6:36 - "Send them away"
- Lu. 9:12 - "the twelve,...said unto him, Send the multitude away"
- *Application For the Christian:
- -How often as Christians do we view the lost & dying world the same way?
- -No compassion, no burden for lost souls who are on their way to hell.
- Jude tells about the compassion the Christian should have.
- See Jude 22-23.
- Just as this crowd was tired and hungry.
- So isn't the lost crowd today, tired and burden from his sin.
- Just as the crowd that followed Jesus was in a desert place.
- So isn't the world today a desert place, barren of the things
- of God. - See Amos 8:11
- This crowd hungered, so isn't the crowd today hungry for something to satisfy their soul.
- Only the Word of God can do that.

C. Jesus' Compassion.

- Jn 6:5 - "When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him.."
- Mark 6:34 - Read.
- Mt. 14:14 - "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them,..."

II. Testing of Faith.

A. Jn. 6:5-7 - Read.

- Testing of Philip's faith
- Jesus knew what he would do - vs. 6
- After all he was God manifest in the flesh.
- He was all-knowing.
- He tests us sometimes to see where our affection and trust lies.
- Vs. 6 - "And this he said to prove him:"

B. Christ's Command

- Mt. 14:16 - Jesus Command - "They need not depart; give ye them to eat"
- Mark 6:37 - "Give ye them to eat"
- Luke 9:13 - "Give ye them to eat"

C. Philip's reply - Jn 6:7

- Typical Christian reply- We want to walk by sight instead of faith.
- Focus on the seen not the unseen.
- Focus on the natural not the supernatural.
- Philip had previously seen:
 - * Jesus change water into new wine at marriage feast, Cana.
 - * Heal the nobleman's son who was at the point of death.
 - * Heal the impotent man.

- Christians are the same way, they see the Lord work in their lives, time and time again.
- But when he asks us to do something that we just can't figure out.
- When he asks us to just trust him and walk by faith and not by sight we react like Philip.
- We try to come up with a human solution. - See Mark 6:37 - "Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?"
- We try to limit God. Jn6:7 - 200 pennyworth of bread.
- That's our solution, instead of trusting in Him & waiting for his solution to our problem.
- Which is far better.

D. Andrew's reply - Jn. 6:8-9

- Andrew's reply not any better.
- Jn 6:9, "...but what are they among so many?"
- Again, a lack of faith.
- Placing limits on God.
- Bible tells us - Rom. 14:23, "...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

III. The Bread.

*What it pictures.

- Jesus says later on in Jn. 6:35 - read "I am the bread of life"
- Salvation only obtained through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Salvation is free gift can't be bought.
- Why Jesus did not have his apostles go out and buy the bread.
- The word of God, only can satisfy the hungry soul.
- The Bible says, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

IV. The Lad - Jn. 6:9 - Read.

- *He didn't have much.
- *But he gave all that he had.
- *We see what little he had was used to feed 5,000 plus people.

*What can we learn?

- We are to come to Christ with the faith of a child.
- Jesus said Matthew 18:3-4.
- We are to give the Lord all that we have without any strings attached.

— If we will do this then what little we have will be used for the saving of many precious souls and the work of the ministry.

V. The Sitting

- *Notice how the people were sit down - Mark 6:39-40
- -The Bible tells us that God likes things done decent and in order.
- *Notice where the people sat - Mark 6:39, "upon the green grass"
- -Reminds us of what David wrote - Psalm 23:2 - "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures."
- *Why were they sitting?
- -We can only learn of the Lord Jesus Christ and be feed by him by sitting at his feet. - i.e. Luke 10:38-42/Martha & Mary.

VI. The Distribution

- *Thanks - Jn. 6:11 - "And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks"
- -Christ is teaching us to give thanks to God, the giver of our provisions.
- -Phil 4:19 - "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
- -God was supplying the need of 5,000 plus through his Son.
- *Blessing and Braking - See Mark 6:41.
- -Before anything can be used of God it must be first blessed and broken.
- -i.e. The Lord Jesus Christ - We see his blessing, when at his baptism we are told in Mt. 3:17 - "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
- -We see his breaking at the cross - "My God, my God, why hast thou forsakem me?"
-Application - Christian before God can use you and I, he must first bless us (salvation) and then brake us (get us to the point we surrender to His will for our lives).
- *The disciples - Jn. 6:11 - read
- -"he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down"
-Application - The Lord gives into the hands of his disciples, the Christian His word to feed the lost and dying word.
- -God uses the Christian to get the job done.
- -Through witnessing, teaching & preaching. etc.

VII. The Results

- *Mark 6:42 - "And they did all eat, and were filled"
- -All that come to Jesus and feast on his word will be filled.
- -Jesus will never leave you empty.
- -Filled - picture of someone being filled with the Holy Spirit at salvation.
- -Plenty left over - Jn. 6:12-13.
- -With Jesus there is always more than enough.
- -Jesus said in John 10:10 - "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."
- *The number - 5,000 plus - Mt. 14:21.

— God accomplishes much with little.

—*Remainders - 12 baskets - Jn. 6:13 - "filled twelve baskets"

—Application: Prophetic. 12 number in Bible for Israel.

— Tells us the abundance grace reserved for Israel.

— Even though they rejected the Lord at his coming, at the second coming, they will accept Him as their Messiah.

— Ezekiel 36:28 concerning Israel at second coming - read.