

**Bible Class –
September 20, 2020**

The God of Provision

(John 6:1-15, 26-29)

Introduction:

God provides for his people.

Discussion: Has there been a time in your life when you really needed to trust God to provide for your physical needs? What happened.

- The American way of life is often rooted in desire "I want more!"
- God's answer to our desire is in his greatest provision.
- Physicist Pascal: "There is a God's-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man and woman that only God can fill through his Son, Jesus Christ."

I. There is no need too large for Jesus to satisfy.

John 6: 1 - 7 -Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (That is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd he said to Phillip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Phillip answered him, "Eight months of wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

v. 5 - Jesus sees the great crowd. Matthew tells us that *"He had compassion on them and healed their sick."* (14:14) Provision always begins with compassion.

v. 6 - Why does Jesus ask Philip *"Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"* Jesus already knew what he was going to do, and he already knew everything about Philip. (See John 2:25) Philip is about to learn something about himself. This is a test!

vs. 7, 8 - Philip responds saying, *"Eight months' wages would not be enough to feed everyone just a bit."* He answers the "how" instead of the "where." He also leaves Jesus out of the equation of an answer.

The Point: God's greatest provision in life centers around Jesus Christ. There is no problem too big for Jesus to solve. We pass the test as we trust in God's eternal provision.

- Why can we be confident in the promise of Philippians 4:19? *“And my God will supply all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”*

A. Jesus is true God

Jeremiah 32:37 "I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is there anything too hard for me?"

B. Jesus Christ is true Savior

What is your greatest need? Christ Jesus is your greatest provision! Real satisfaction comes when we finally put Christ in the equation of our need.

II. There is no person too small for Jesus to use.

vs. 8-13 - Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted," So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten."

- God uses a little boy with a little lunch to provide for so many!
- “two small fish” – most likely a picked small fish
- “five barley loaves” – most likely similar to a bread stick. Barley was the cheapest, coarsest, and crudest of breads.
- When we give our blessings back to the Lord for his use, He can multiply the blessings.

- “Filled” or “as much as they wanted” is a Greek word originally used of animals fed to repletion.
- “Gather up the pieces” - Why? A regular practice was to leave the “Peah” for the servants.
- “12 baskets” - Each of the disciples had his basket (kophinos) in which he carried his own food.
- The miracle begs the question: “What am I doing with my leftovers?” Also, “When is enough, enough?”

The Point: God fills our needs. Real contentment/satisfaction comes from God using you to help others!

Discussion: Has there ever been a time when you were asked to do something way over your head and God used ordinary you to do something extraordinary.

III. There is no hunger (or need) beyond God's provision.

vs. 26-27 - "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of *man* will give you..."

- Two kinds of provision: that which spoils and that which lasts.
- See our Lord's follow up to this miracle in v. 35 "I am the bread of life..."

The Point. Real lasting provision for our lives will never come from the things of this world.

In the meantime... (So what?)

1. Trust in Christ preeminently. Matthew 6:33 - *"But seek first..."*
2. Seek him purposefully. v.27 - *"DO not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life..."*
3. Believe perpetually. v.35 - *"He who comes to me will never go hungry."*