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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 6:1-15
Lesson #22
Feeding the 5000
12/13/2015


Last Week

The only
difference between
Stumbling Blocks &
Stepping Stones
is how we use them.

1

Opportunities or Obstacles?

- Joseph's enslavement?
- Jesus' Cross?
- Paul's Thorn?
- Our troubles?
- **The Feeding of the 5000 in John 6:1-15?**



2

John 6

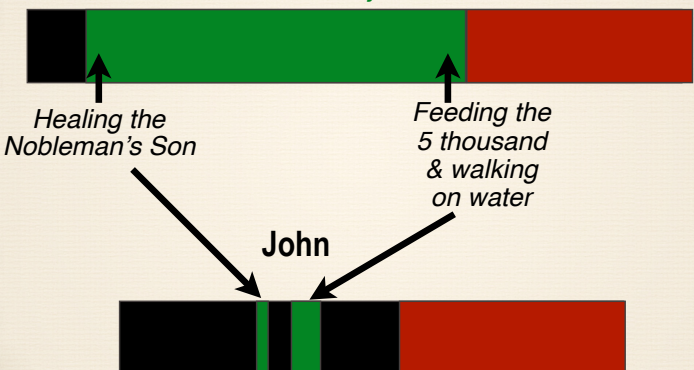
“1 After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias).”

- About one year later (according to the other Gospels).
- This illustrates the fact that the Gospel writers selected and arranged the events that they record for reasons other than just giving us a sequential bio. of Jesus.
- John records the first and the last miracles of the Great Galilean Ministry of Jesus to summarize:
 - ✓ the mixed reception that Jesus received.
 - ✓ the distorted expectations, that those who welcomed him, tended to have.


3

Matthew, Mark, Luke

The Great Galilean Ministry The Passion & Resurrection



4



5

"2 And a great multitude was following Him, because they were seeing the signs which He was performing on those who were sick. 3 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. 4 Now the **Passover**, the feast of the Jews, was at hand."

- The Passover was the celebration of Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage and the birth of their nation.
- But Israel was now longing for a second Exodus as they suffered under Roman domination.

6

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- The coming Passover might set the stage for understanding this passage.

- ✓ It might explain the large crowds (going to Jerusalem?).
- ✓ It explains the nature of their interest in Jesus, who provides bread (Manna).
- ✓ It explains Jesus' withdrawal.

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"5 Jesus therefore lifting up His eyes, and seeing that a great multitude was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, that these may eat?" 6 And this He was saying to test him; for He Himself knew what He was intending to do."

The test - when we have a need, what is our source?

Mark 6:37

"You give them something to eat!"

8

"7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little." 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?"

Mark 6:38

"And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go look!" and when they found out, they said, "Five, and two fish."

Our inventory before Jesus gets his hands on it is limited.

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"10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 Jesus therefore took the loaves; and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted. 12 And when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments that nothing may be lost." 13 And so they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who had eaten."

10

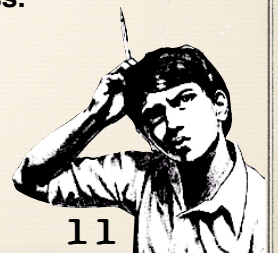
"14 When therefore the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is truly the **Prophet** who is to come into the world."

Déjà vu

God raised up Moses who delivered Israel from the Egyptians and fed them manna in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy 18:15

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a **prophet** like me (**Moses**) from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him."



11

"15 So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take him by force to make him king, withdrew again to the mountain by himself alone."

Jesus is using signs to reveal himself but when people get the wrong message he is forced to pull back until his time is come.

What this is not about

- Poverty alleviation.
- Inspired generosity.
- Ecological sensitivity.

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What this is about

- We are to look to Jesus as our source of provision, just as the Israelites looked to God in the wilderness (Passover).

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Matthew 16:9-11

"Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many large baskets you took up? Or the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets you took up?"

How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?"

14

Later the Apostle Paul would confirm the Jesus / Passover Lamb connection.

1 Corinthians 5:7

"Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened, For **Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.**"

John 6:31

"Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, **"He gave them bread out of heaven to eat."**"

15

Psalms 37:4

"Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart."

How are we to understand "the desires of our heart"?

On the flesh level it is "better outer circumstances."

On the spirit level it is "better inner character."

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Psalms 37:4

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How are we to understand "the desires of our heart"?

Observation:

How often do the Apostles or our Lord pray for a change of circumstances (other than as a sign)?

Jesus in the wilderness, and in the garden?

Paul with his "thorn" and in prison?

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James 4

"1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 **You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives**, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

18

"15 So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take him by force to make him king, withdrew again to the mountain by himself alone."

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Implications

- Jesus exercises power to multiply loaves and fish **but not to control the response of people.**
- Jesus provides stepping stones **but does not prevent their becoming stumbling blocks.**
- Jesus could create food from nothing **but he chooses to start with what we have.**
- Jesus is the provision for the deepest desire of our hearts **which is peace with God and the power to be light in a dark world.**

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Applications

1. Resist the tendency of our human nature to see life primarily from a political, material, socioeconomic perspective.
 - Our material comfort.
 - Our political security.
 - Our social status.
2. Remember to filter Jesus' words and deeds through the bigger story of why he came.
 - Not to **change our circumstances.**
 - But to **change us** in them and be with us through them.

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3. Take your responsibility seriously.

- You are free to choose. God will test you but not force you.
- Life can be a blessing or a curse depending on your choices.

4. Remember, Jesus can use little things if we let him get his hands on them.

- The Devil is not the only one in the details - so is Jesus.

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Check your heart

1. What did you give thanks for this last Thanksgiving holiday?

- Primarily, tangible circumstances?
- Opportunities for ministry?
- Challenges to develop and demonstrate Godliness?

2. Going forward, for what are you trusting God?

- Better conditions?
- Better responses?

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