

Jesus didn't come just to give bread but BE bread

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2 Baby Dedication (2nd service)
- B. Slide3 3rd-5th Grade Camp - 6 sponsorships needed.
- C. Slide4 Children's Musical *Info Mtg* - Wed, Feb.6th, 6:30pm. (K-8th)
- D. Slide5 Sun Night of Prayer Next Sun - 6:30-7:30pm.
- E. Slide6 Wed Night Series: *How Do I...?* (Series). This Wed Night *How Do I Pray?*
- F. *Calvary Magazines* in info booth.
- G. Pray: Polar Vortex. NY's Late-Term Abortion Law (1 in 3 pregnancies end in abortion in NY).

II. Slide7 **Intro:** Jesus didn't come just to give bread but BE bread

- A. In this chapter, we're going to see Jesus perform 2 more impressive *signs*.
 - 1. We've already watched him make *clear water blush* (turning to wine), healed a boy from a distance & made a lame man walk.
 - a) Today, He'll feed 5000 & walk on water.
 - 2. If Jesus can do these, imagine what He can do for your **life**, your **marriage**, your **impossibilities**? For your **job**, your **finances**, your **school**, your **blended** family, your **dysfunctional** family?
 - 3. *Impossibilities*, depend on *our perspective*.
 - a) Eg. to a **child**, many things seem **impossible**: like long division, or the game of chess. But from an **adults** perspective, these are handled w/relative ease.
 - 4. Let's try to understand the *impossible* from 2 different viewpoints...the human & the divine.
 - a) Slide8 Jeremiah makes this claim, *Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.* (Jer.32:17) Then God confirms it 10 verses later, *Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?*

- B. This is a time of *testing* for the disciples. Jesus asks: How can we address the problem of **hunger**? How can we deal with **popularity**?

III. Slide9a **FEEDING THE MULTITUDE (1-14)** *Leaving the mult. Losing the mult.*

- A. The only miracle (besides res) that *is in all 4 gospels*. Why this story?
1. Matthew noticed His *compassion & healing* of the sick, before the feeding.
 2. Mark noticed *why* He had *compassion...because the were like sheep w/o a shepherd, so He taught them many things*. Shepherd-less sheep...folks trying to make it on their own through life.
 3. Why does only John give us the sermon behind it? Was he just so touched by the story?
- B. What is God trying to communicate about **Himself**? The fact that He can feed a bunch of people? That Jesus is greater than His disciples? When you come to the Scriptures are you looking stories of *personal growth*, or an understanding of the *character & nature of God*? How about... **Trust Him**...for everything.
- C. Slide9b (3) Vance Havner, *If we don't come apart and rest - we'll come apart*.
1. We need times when we smooth out the **wrinkles of our soul**.
- D. What do you see in a big crowd? (5,6) A lot of people, means a lot of work, counseling, trouble, hassle, heartache? Jesus sees Hungry people.
1. Jesus tests the disciples faith: He asks how they propose to feed the multitude?
 2. Sometimes we just **focus** on *the wrong thing* completely.
 - a) Like the old story of the **Russian Security Officer** who watched the gate at a plant. Every evening a man had a **wheel barrel** with a **brown bag**. Every evening the guard would stop him & ask, *what's in the bag?* He would show him & it was full of **sawdust & wood chips**, to **heat his home**. This went on day after day. Finally the guard couldn't take it any longer & said *look, I don't care what you're stealing, but I know you're stealing something, what is it? Wheel barrels!*
 3. Sometimes we just **focus** on *the wrong thing* completely.

- a) Slide9c You will never feed anyone **if you don't ask how you might.**
 You will never feed anyone **if you only focus on the problem.**
 You will never feed **one** **if you only focus on the many.**

- E. (6b) Jesus **knew exactly what He was going to do.** Which means, He's not only **in control** of the situation at hand, **but several steps ahead** of the game.
- Slide9d Like a brilliant chess player who thinks several moves ahead. Maybe even giving up a minor piece as a **gambit** (sacrifice) in order to later gain an advantage.
 - So Jesus is willing to give up a little **R&R** for His disciples, in order to gain a more committed band of men.
- F. Pessimism at its Finest (7,8)
- G. Slide10a Philip - *It'll take a small fortune* [Philip thought the answer was \$]
- So with lightening speed Philip analyzes the situation & gives Jesus a **spreadsheet answer.**
 - Problem? He didn't punch in **the Jesus key** on his calculator. **Which changes the #'s every time.**
- H. Slide10b Andrew - at least seeks a solution, even though it's a **human** one. **But then** becomes overwhelmed...**what are they among so many?**
- Problem? Andrew thought **little** was **insignificant.**
- I. So Philip looked 1st at the budget & Andrew checked the pantry.
- Remember, Jesus didn't need the loaves & fishes, He could have spoken forth **corn-beef and cabbage on rye.**
 - They needed to **look to the Lord.** Remember, they've seen **Him** change water/wine.
 - We need to **look to the Lord.** We've seen Him change **the old water of our lives** into **new wine.** We've seen him give us **new legs of faith** to our **lame spiritual bodies.**
- (1) Impossibilities are solved by miracles - pennies from Heaven. And **Jesus** had pocketfuls. **That** is where the disciples were to **get bread.**
- J. Always at the time of human hopelessness...Jesus takes over.

1. Leave **Jesus** out of your calculations & you'll come up short every time.

K. **Slide10c A Lad with a Lunch** - the starting-point is always to bring *what is there* to the attention of **Jesus**.

1. You can never tell what he's going to **do with it** but part of the Christian faith is the expectation that He **will** do something we hadn't thought of, *usually something new and creative*.
2. Picture now Jesus turning to the boy. He doesn't have much. And what he has isn't the best. **It's** the food for the poor, bread made from barley, not wheat. **And** salted down sardines not lamb chops. **But, it was enough**.
3. The surrender of a child + the compassion of the Savior = all that's needed for this miracle.
4. **Christ can take our little and make it much**. Moses' stick. David's rock. Elijah's mantle/cloak. Widows jar/oil. Samson's *donkey* jawbone. A lil lad's lunch... **Your** monthly missionary support check. Your prayer. Your individual tithe. Your prep time for your SS class. **Our means, His power**.

L. **Slide10d LEFTOVERS** (12,13)

M. **Filled 12 baskets** -Jesus not only meets needs **but** supplies more than enough.

1. God through Jesus Christ provides more than is adequate for human needs.

N. **Slide10e** Jesus didn't only **feed** the 5000, **but he taught** the 12. He sent them home w/a Zip-Lock doggie-bag reminder. [did Jesus have them carry their **Tupperware baskets** all the way home so they don't forget this lesson?]

1. **Twelve baskets full** - 1 per disciple. In the OT, God fed His people with manna, **but** there were no edible leftovers.

O. **Slide10f** **Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost** -(good life lessons here)

1. After you've filled yourself, don't forget about others around you.
2. **Slide10g** **Gather up all the fragments**...everything in your **story**, everything in your **past**, everything that has made you **you**. **So that nothing is lost**.
 - a) I went w/Mark R to VOM Conf - **Story** of a hindu man from a high cast became a Christian. Everyone hated him in his community. When his wife was ready to deliver he asked his neighbor to **borrow his motorcycle** to take her to the hospital.

No, you are an untouchable. Next neighbor, no. The baby ended up dying before they could get there. Soon after VOM sent him a **motorcycle**. He dedicated it for the use of an ambulance in his city. Gather up **all** the fragments...

3. 10h We are **responsible** for all that the Lord gives us. Even the **little things**
 4. Slide10i And remember it was *while Ruth gleaned fragments* in the harvest field *that the biggest thing* in her life happened...Boaz.
- P. Does Jesus always resolve our every impossibility w/a happy ending in the here & now?
1. He does want to *nourish* us, but He never wants to be *reduced to a genie* who will magically supply our every want.

IV. Slide11a **LEAVING THE MULTITUDE (15-21)**

- A. KING (15)
- B. (15) Wow, He moves from *Prophet* to **King** in one fell swoop.
- C. As Jesus refused Satan's crown in the wilderness, so he refuses this one also.
 1. Slide11b Jesus knew the way to the throne is **not** over **the tempter's red carpet** but on **the stony path that leads to Calvary**.
 2. There, **the Bread of Life** would be *broken*...so that a world *hungering for forgiveness* could...**take and eat**.
- D. Jesus withdraws & heads for the hills.
 1. What might we learn from His withdrawing from the place of **success** to be by Himself?
- E. Slide11c **WALKING ON WATER (16-21)**
- F. The disciples, *esp Judas*, would have **welcomed a kingdom**. So, Jesus sends them into a storm.
 1. Slide11d Reminds me of the **Piglet** line in the *Winnie the Pooh* classic, "*It's a little Anxious,*" Piglet said to himself, "*to be a Very Small Animal Entirely Surrounded by Water.*" [I think the **disciples** felt the same as **Piglet** here]
- G. Slide11e **SOVEREIGN SAVIOR (19-21)**
- H. Another situation of **human hopelessness & fear**.

1. What are you listening for? Sometimes all we **hear** is the howling wind. We **see** only crashing waves. We **feel** we are possibly going to drown. We are **disturbed** by a ghost like presence. **But**...if we listen *through* our situations we'll **hear** the voice that whispers, *It is I; do not be afraid.*
 - a) What are you listening **for**? What are you listening **to**?
 - b) Jesus gives **hope**, *It is I; do not be afraid.*
 2. Jesus came to them & met their needs. *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.* Is.43:2. Jesus our Unsinkable Savior.
- I. Were each of the 12 holding their own basket, in their lap, in this small fishing boat? Was it their reminder of what Jesus can do in *impossible* situations? (like they were in again)
1. Is this **basket lesson** that *you get personal attention*. It's for **you**. To remind you, you have enough. That Jesus is enough. This is His individual provisions for His own.
- J. Slide11f This **isn't** a story about *getting people out of storms*, **but** a story about *getting Jesus into your boat*...and **immediately** the storm was over.

V. Slide12a **LOSING THE MULTITUDE (22-29)**

- A. We'll get into the details next week at the end of the chapter of *Jesus losing the multitude* Slide12b (on purpose). **But for now**...*Jesus didn't come just to **give** bread but **BE** bread.*
1. He gave the people bread & fish for just that **1 day**. **But** he refused to let the people make Him their **Bread-King** so their stomachs could **always be full**.
 2. Slide12c As John Piper said, *Jesus didn't come to be useful but to be **precious***
- B. What shall we **do**, that we may **work** the **works** of God?
1. **Work**? The only *work*, is the work or labor of **faith/belief**.
 2. Slide12d "**Working for me** doesn't makes Me precious to you, **seeing me** makes Me precious to you." [eg. the **older brother** in the prodigal story. *Father I worked for you. I work. I don't dance, listen to music, play, or feast. I work!*]
 3. Slide12e *This is the **work** of God, that you **believe** in him whom he has sent.*

- C. Lord, the crowd of need around me is **too large**, my loaves **so small**, my fish **too few**. **And yet**, You love showing **Your power** through *the weak of this world*. You took a barren couple and created a nation. With a slingshot you slayed a giant. And this is how You characteristically work. So it **isn't** my bank account. It **isn't** my ingenuity. It **isn't** You relying on me, **but** the inverse. I just need to place my mini-offering into Your world-size hands. Give me **faith** to realize You bless what I'm willing to *give-up, give-over, or give-away*. Now help me as I am merely one beggar, telling another beggar, where to find bread.
- D. **Prayer:** Lord, Your *surveillance system* is up and running & focused in on on each of our lives today. Our **situations**. Our **problems**. The **impossibilities** we face. You're *watching, caring, and teaching & moving* amongst us. **So...**help us not to **judge our problems** in the light of our own resources. Help us to *place ourselves in position* for You to do something big. **And accept Your every invitation** to participate.