

Seeking the Person or Product

Summer Series – Favourite Stories from the Bible

Today – John Chapter 6

Next 5 weeks – Jonah

Two Stories – and an application of the events

Setting:

- Jesus in 2nd year of public ministry
- challenged religious leaders, gained popularity,

healing

- followed by many – movement is getting huge

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“Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ²and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick.

³Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples.

⁴The Jewish Passover Feast was near. ⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages^[a] would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

¹⁰Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹Jesus 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. “

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¹²When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself."

Well Known Story:

- feeding of the 5000
- simple observations

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1. Problem – feeding these people

a) Jesus asks for solutions

- send them away – cannot deal with this
- pay for lunch – 8 months wages
- Andrew – found a kid with lunch willing to share

b) Jesus Addresses the Need

- get's crowd to sit down – organize
- gives thanks for the ridiculous

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- breaks the pieces and distributes the food
- collects 12 baskets left over

c) Common Agreement

- let's make him King
- hungry – food, sick – healing, opposed leaders

d) Jesus Disappears

- withdrawal from crowd and their agenda

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16" When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, 17 where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. 18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. 19 When they had rowed three or three and a half miles,^[b] they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. 20 But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." 21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading. 22 The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. 23 Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus."

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2. The Problem – Staying on Track

a) Covert Actions to Get Away

- sends disciples in evening – not in boat himself
- temptation for disciples - fame, power, position

b) The Storm

- scaring seasoned fishermen
- three & a half miles – long ways to row
- test of faith – Jesus sent them, will he provide

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c) Jesus Walking On Water

- realism of scripture – terrified – no kidding
- Jesus – don't be afraid
- elements not a focus – Jesus in control

d) Stalkers on Patrol

- realize they slipped away
- get in boats and hunt them down

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“When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” ²⁶Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

²⁸Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

²⁹Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

³⁰So they asked him, “What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ [c]”

³²Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. “

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³³For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴"Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

³⁵Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

³⁶But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

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3. The Problem – Getting Through to This Crowd

a) Question – when did you get here?

- how did you get away, don't you realize we have plans?

- what's on the show agenda here?

b) Jesus Tells it Straight

- looking for more product, not me

- desire experience, needs met, encounter

- you need to be seeking me – God come down

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c) Arrogant Responses

- vs 28 – what specific actions can we take to get this
- vs. 30 – what miracles or signs will you offer as proof
- give us incentive, things we can measure

d) Jesus Clears it up

- look for Jesus not the product
- believe – and live with faith

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So What

1. God still Grants Miracles

- multiplies our faithful few to much
- heals, restores, renews, redeems – many attracted to that
- we can begin to peruse product instead of person

2. We can become attracted to the World's agenda

- God will send us away from that
- God will allow storms – and be our deliverer

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3. What are you seeking

- list of actions to secure relationship
- signs and wonders to make life easier, amaze you, compel you towards Christ
- relationship with God – believing Jesus, living by faith