

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

September 16, 2020

John 6: 1 - 14

After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias. 2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. 3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. 4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. 5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? 6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? 10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. 12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. 13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Pastor Tom noted that this is a well-known story about Jesus that most of us have grown up with. However, there is a generation of young people that may not be as familiar with the story of the Loaves and the Fishes. He encouraged us to listen to the story with new ears tonight, as if we had never heard it before.

Verse 1

“After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.”

*Paying attention to the words ‘after this’ allows us to put the time frame in perspective. This event happened after Jesus had spent considerable time defending His role as the Son of God to the Jewish leaders (Chapter 5) and then spent more time performing miracles, healing people. So this chapter happens about a year after chapter 5.

*According to the internet, The Sea of Galilee is also known as the sea of Tiberius, Lake of Gennesaret, or Lake Kinneret. It is a lake because it is freshwater, not salty. Other facts about the sea:

- Lowest freshwater lake in the world
- About 33 miles around
- 13miles long by 8 miles wide

In Jesus’ day, 8 miles rowing or depending on sails would have made for a long trip across the lake. (Keep this in mind for later)

Verse 2

“And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.”

*Jesus’ fame had spread of the past year because of the physical healings he performed. These were different than the miracle He does with the Loaves and Fishes.

*Pastor Tom challenged us to think about daily miracles today. The appeal to Jesus was His ability to do what could not be done in those times. Fast forward to our times today with advancements in medicine and technology. Perhaps we do not rely on God as much as we should because we do not think miracles occur. Have we drifted so far from our awareness of God, depending on our own self-reliance, that we miss seeing miracles on a daily basis? Are we so busy that we forget what is important?

Verses 3 and 4

“And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.”

*Passover is one of 3 Jewish Feasts that require the men to be present at the Temple in Jerusalem. The Feast of Pentecost (also known as the Firstfruits or Weeks) and the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths or Ingathering) are the other two.

*So at this time, many men would be traveling to Jerusalem. There would be lots of people in the area.

Verse 5, 6 and 7

“When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.”

*Jesus is asking almost a rhetorical question, testing Philip to see how he would answer, by faith or by sight. Philip answers by sight even though Jesus had it all taken care of ahead of time.

*We don't know what tomorrow will bring. Jesus had asked Philip the question to see what he would do. We all get tested in our faith, but Jesus knows the outcome already.

Verses 8 and 9

“One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?”

*Pastor Tom thought Andrew's response was a little smart alec. Others thought Andrew was just inquiring, being realistic not sarcastic.

Verse 10

“And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.”

*Note that only the men were told to sit down, as only the men were required to attend Passover in Jerusalem. The reason has to do with the men being the ones who painted the doorposts at the First Passover in Egypt.

Verse 11

“And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.”

*The men received as much bread as they wanted because it was their responsibility to take care of their families first. This is a lesson within a lesson that Jesus wants us to see: Men are to provide for their families needs. The disciples gave the bread to the men, and then the men gave it to their families.

*Pastor Tom added a side note to this lesson: When speaking with the bus driver of the Johnstown Football Team, he learned the boys were very disrespectful on the way home from a game which they lost. The driver noted that they don't know pride or respect or how to follow good leadership because the majority of them have no good male influences in their lives.

*Continuing on this theme, Pastor Tom asked if we thought that the violent protests could also be a result of this lack in homes. There is a difference between peaceful protests and violent, destructful riots showing no regard to other people or property.

*Summarizing then the importance of the men's responsibility: To whom much is given, much is required. Men must become accountable to God!

Verses 12 and 13

“When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.”

*Several examples were cited of how wasteful our society has become. Here is another lesson within a lesson that Jesus gave us: Recycle, don't waste!

Verse 14

“Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.”

*After Jesus performed the miraculous by multiplying the little boy's lunch, the Jewish men call Jesus a prophet. This could be taken as a compliment but Jesus is not a prophet, he is the Son of God!

Jesus is demonstrating tangibly what he proposed verbally throughout Chapter 5, that he is indeed the Son of God.

God was praised for Jesus' actions (as if God had sent the Jews another good guy to tell them God's word) but they Jews did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah they studied about throughout their Torah lessons.

*Anyone can talk “God Talk”, but we need more “Jesus Talk”.

*How can you call yourself a Christian if you don't recognize and honor and glorify Jesus Christ?

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*
