

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

**16) Without Him We Can't -
Without Us He Won't**

'After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near'
(John 6:1-4)

Many had seen Jesus heal the sick and followed Him in order to see more

The miracles drew many *after* Him, but sadly only a few *to* Him

They didn't understand that they were signs

'Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do'
(John 6:5-6)

**We don't need to go looking for ministry
God often brings the people to us He wants us to
minister to. E.g. Good Samaritan**

**God brings people to us with needs to see how we
will deal with them**

'Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"'

(John 6:7-9)

Philip said: 'I know we can't do it.' Andrew said, 'I don't know if we can do it.' Jesus said, 'I know we can do it!'

They had already seen Jesus perform many miracles so they should have said, 'You know, Lord'

That's the excitement of ministry – we don't know what He will do - but we know that He knows!

'Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted'
(John 6:10-11)

- ✓ **Jesus operated practically and supernaturally. He commanded them to sit down in rows**
- ✓ **He took the loaves and fishes, blessed them, broke them and gave them to His disciples to distribute to the multitude**
- ✓ **The miracle is that He brought life from the dead**

- ✓ **Jesus fed the hungry multitude and He did it through His disciples**
- ✓ **It was their work as much as it was His. His was the increase, but theirs was the distribution**
- ✓ **He deliberately chose a method that involved the disciples. He doesn't need us but He almost always works through us. We are His body**
- ✓ **Without their work, no one would have been fed. We are *'laborers together with God'* (1 Cor.3:9)**
- ✓ **He provided the abundant supply, and they humbly received and faithfully distributed it**
- ✓ **That's ministry – without Him we can't; without us He won't**

'So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world"'

(John 6:12-14)

'As much as they wanted...When they were filled' what a contrast from the words of Philip, 'that every one of them may have a little'

He gives more than enough...12 baskets of leftovers

The sign was intended to teach us to trust Him for all our needs. When Jesus walked on the water and they were afraid, it was because *'...they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened'*
(Mk.6:52)

This sign shows that He who met our greatest need will meet every other need
'But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you'
(Matt.6:33)

'He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?'
(Rom.8:32)

'Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone'

(John 6:15)

At the feast time they looked back to their deliverance from Egypt, and now they wanted deliverance from Rome

Moses foretold the coming of the Prophet. He too fed a multitude in a wilderness. Is this him?

They wanted Him to be their King. Jesus rejected their effort, sent His disciples away and sent the crowd away too. He had already dealt with that temptation from Satan

They saw the miracle but not the sign

Food was called into existence which did not exist before. In healing the sick and in raising the dead, something was amended or restored which already existed; but here was a creation

Only one other miracle resembles it — when He made wine out of the water

These two miracles point to His precious blood and His body, broken for us

**This is our greatest need
To know Him as the Bread of Life.**