



January 26, 2025
Jesus at the Festivals

THE SECOND PASSOVER (PART 1)

John 6:1-15



1. Opening Discussion Questions: (in a group setting you may not want to use all of these)

- a. If you grew up with parents or grandparents that lived through the Great Depression, or perhaps World War II, you no doubt heard stories about the hardships experienced. When they described these times was their attitude more one of despair about the hardship or pride at having gotten through it?
- b. What was the most memorable meal you've ever eaten? Was it the food, the setting, or the company that made it particularly memorable?
- c. Have you ever been to an event where a large group was provided with a free meal in an informal setting? How did the people respond? Was there concern that the food might run out before some got theirs? Did everyone get as much as they wanted or were some left still hungry?

2. Sermon Outline/Key Points

- a. Jesus Miraculously Fed Thousands In A Wilderness Place
 - i. The ministry of Jesus was thriving in Galilee
 - ii. Jesus challenged the disciples to solve a practical problem
 - iii. Jesus provided an abundant feast
- b. In that Passover season, Jesus Connected His Mission to the Exodus
 - i. The powerful meaning of this miracle is rooted in the first Passover
 - ii. Jesus came to lead a new and even better Exodus!
 - iii. The new exodus will be abundant and comprehensive like Jesus's provision
- c. The Crowd Understood AND Misunderstood Jesus's Role as Messiah
 - i. The crowd instantly understood the Exodus connection!
 - ii. However, they thought only in earthly terms (like the disciples)

3. Study/Discussion Points:

- a. ***Sunday Afternoon*** – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to ponder these questions prayerfully:
 - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
 - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - iv. What is one thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?

- v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

b. Monday:

- i. This week's focal passage is titled "Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand" in the ESV and is one of those important events in Jesus' life that is recorded in all four gospels. Read each of the four accounts, noting the unique details each provides:
 1. Matthew 14:13-21
 2. Mark 6:32-44
 3. Luke 9:10-17
 4. John 6:1-15
- ii. Of the four accounts, which do you find most informative? What details make it so? What details does that account lack that are provided in the other Gospels?
- iii. Use a Bible atlas to locate the area in which the Feeding of the Five Thousand likely took place – probably southeast of the town of Bethsaida where the area known today as the Golan Heights borders the Sea of Galilee. What can we say conclusively about the area based on the scripture accounts?

c. Tuesday:

- i. Read and meditate on John 6:1-15.
- ii. When did the events described in this passage take place? What does it signify to you that John seems to deliberately avoid telling specific times (see 5:1, 6:1, and 7:1)?
 1. Because this miracle is recorded in all four Gospels, we know that many events have taken place between chapters 5 and 6. This would include healing the Roman centurion's servant (Luke 7:1-10), raising the widow's son (Luke 7:11-17), sending the demons into the herd of pigs (Luke 8:26-39), healing the bleeding woman and raising a girl to life (Luke 8:40-56). How does John describe the impact (effect/results) of what Jesus was doing in Galilee?
 2. What does verse 4 tell us about the timing of these events? What in this account suggests that Passover had not yet arrived?
 3. What explanation does Mark 6:30-31 provide for why Jesus went to this isolated area? What lesson might we learn from this that would apply to our lives in 2025?

d. Wednesday:

- i. Read John 6:5-9.
 1. What does Jesus' question to Philip seem to assume about responsibility for the "large crowd's" physical well-being?
 2. How did the disciples initially propose solving the problem in Mark's account of the miracle (Mark 6:35-36)? In what ways is our response to those

in need often the same?

3. What light does verse 6 shed on Jesus' question to Philip?
 - a. What, if anything, do you think Jesus expected from Philip as a correct answer?
 - b. Would it have been reasonable to expect Philip (or anyone) to propose the solution Jesus eventually provides?
 - c. Based on such considerations, what do you think is meant by "test" as used in this verse? Read and consider 2 Corinthians 13:5-6 and Hebrews 11:17-19. How do you see "testing" as different from "trials" and from "temptations"?
4. What do Philip's answers say about how he views the problem? Do we respond the same way to problems we face (consider world hunger and the unreached people groups)?
5. How does Andrew's input differ from Philip's? How does he support Philip? What one significant (although it may not seem so) detail does John provide in verse 9 (repeated in verse 13) that the other Gospels do not?
- ii. Read 2 Kings 4:42-44. What parallels do you see between this and the Feeding of the Five Thousand? What kind of bread did Elisha use?

e. Thursday:

- i. Read John 6:10-11 and Matthew 14:19.
- ii. If you had been one of the disciples what would your reaction have been when Jesus told you to have the people sit down?
 1. What additional instructions did Jesus provide according to Luke (9:14)?
 2. What would the people have probably been thinking was going to happen?
 3. What does it say to you that the disciples were able to get 5,000 men (plus women and children) to sit down in groups (was that a miracle in itself)?
- iii. What is the first thing Jesus did after getting the crowd seated?
- iv. According to Matthew how was the bread distributed?
 1. Despite the fact that Philip and Andrew did not foresee Jesus' solution what does it say about the disciples that they obeyed and began distributing bread and fish to the crowd?
 2. What thoughts do you think were going through their minds at the start? How may they have changed by the time the distribution was finished?
 3. How do we respond when Jesus gives us a seemingly impossible task with no obvious human solution (think of the Great Commission)? How should our response mirror that of the disciples?

f. Friday:

- i. Read John 6:12-13.
- ii. What brought the meal to a close?
 1. When John says that they had “had enough to eat” do you think he is saying that everyone had as much as they could want (Thanksgiving dinner) or that they had what was necessary and needed?
 2. When we pray the Lord’s Model Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13 or Luke 11:2-4) what do we ask God to provide?
 3. When the manna was collected how much did God provide (Exodus 16:16-17)?
- iii. Jesus had clearly demonstrated that He didn’t need the leftovers for tomorrow’s meal so why do you think He commanded that they be collected?
 1. Jumping ahead in the chapter, could this have been an object lesson for what he says in 6:39? If Jesus cares enough to make sure none of the leftovers are lost, how much more will he make sure none of his people are lost?
 2. What object lesson can we learn from Jesus’ example that might apply in our society where waste is so prevalent?

g. *Saturday:*

- i. Read John 6:14-15, Deuteronomy 18:15-18, 2 Kings 4:42-44, and Isaiah 25:6-9.
- ii. What was the crowd’s response to this miracle?
- iii. In Deuteronomy God tells Moses “the Prophet” will come, Elisha is seen as foreshadowing “that Prophet”, and Isaiah tells us of a feast He will provide. How do these confirm that this miracle clearly shows that Jesus is “that Prophet”, the Messiah?
- iv. What was Jesus’ response to the crowd’s intent? Why?

4. Application:

- a. Just as Jesus saw an obligation to care for the physical needs of those who came to Him in that desolate area, He has given us a mandate to care for others in our world. Consider prayerfully how (or even if) you are taking that seriously. Is there more that you could and should do for those with physical needs, both in our immediate area and around the world?
- b. Jesus gave us a mission that is as daunting as feeding a crowd of 5,000 when He gave the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Too often churches have responded by doing nothing because the task just seems too big. But we should remember that He did not command us to be successful but to be obedient. Pray about what you and our church are doing to be obedient.

5. Prayer Points:

- a. Adoration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. Confession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. Thanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. Supplications –Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19