

## John Chapter 6

By now, Jesus has become pretty popular. He has thousands of people following him around to hear what he has to say and to see and receive his miracles. But they're getting hungry.

So, rather than sending them away to find food or trying to scrounge up enough money to buy them bread, Jesus performs another miracle. He uses the small meal of one child to feed 5000 men and their families. Five barley loaves and two fish shouldn't be enough to fill a single family's bellies. Yet, Jesus uses it to feed thousands of families.

This should serve as a reminder to us. A reminder that God will do infinitely more with our talents and possessions than we possibly could on our own. Things that seem insignificant and almost useless become enormously effective tools when we offer them to God for his purposes.

This boy really doesn't do anything but offer up his snack. Jesus does all the hard labor, but he allows the boy to play an integral role. Not because Jesus can't do it without him. He could call mana from the sky or turn rocks into bread if he chooses. But he allows a small boy to be the hero by simply offering the little bit he has.

And notice how he does the miracle through the disciples without them even realizing it. The disciples go around handing food out to everyone without running out. Then, when everyone is done eating, the amount of food left over is far more than the five loaves of bread and two fish.

Jesus recreates the miracle of the manna in the wilderness, but he includes people. He allows people to be a part of this miracle. God is still providing the meal, and he could still do so without any help, but he invites us into his work to partner with him.

God doesn't want or need us to try to force the Kingdom into being. Jesus already has a plan for that. He only wants us to be ready and willing to join him when he asks.

Next, just to make sure the people following him aren't only in it for the free stuff, Jesus tells them all they're going to have to eat him. Not really the kind of statement that brings people running to join you, right?

To be honest, they had it coming. Directly after he feeds them all that bread when there wasn't anything to eat, they have the audacity to ask for a miracle. They want him to convince them to believe in him by doing a miracle. Which he just did. And they even bring up the manna Israel ate in the wilderness. After he just fed them bread! How blind can a group of people be?

So, he tells them that he is bread from heaven, and that they will have to eat his flesh. As off-putting as Jesus' words are here, they are so important for us to understand and remember.

"Jesus' body broken for us" – That's what we say when we pass the bread around the table together (or when you eat the little wafer, or whatever your community does). We have been given eternal life because of Jesus. Now, you probably already know that. But, think about it. We don't live without eating. We need sustenance to survive, and food gives us energy. Everything we accomplish in this life is, in part, a result of the food we feed our bodies. Without it, we will wither away and be useless.

Jesus tells us that we should be sustained by him. He is the one who gives us the motivation and the energy to complete the works he has set out for us. Consume all of Jesus that you can. And, in doing so, you should notice yourself resembling him more and more.

Without Jesus and his sacrifice, we do not have eternity with God. And, after all, "you are what you eat," right? What does your daily life look like? And what does that tell you about the thing you consume the most?