

The Prophet

The Scriptures

“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 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. 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.” - John 6:1-15

The Claims of Jesus...

- In John chapters 5 and 6 Jesus claims to be the Son of God, the Messiah, the Prophet, the Son of Man, and the Bread of Life.

The Setting

“Some time after this...” — This takes place likely one year after chapter 5, if the feast mentioned in John 5:1 was the previous Passover.

The events preceding this story:



“When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then He took them with Him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, ¹¹but the crowds learned about it and followed Him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.” - Luke 9:9-11

Faith

Jesus asked Philip where to find food for all these people.

Jesus already knew what He was going to do!

“He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do.” - v. 6

Andrew found a little food but not nearly enough.

“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” - John 6:9

Jesus instructs the disciples to seat the people.

Jesus took the little (food & faith) and did something big!

“Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.” - John 6:11

Food

Jesus thanks the Father for the food that was available.

Jesus distributed the food. (Notice that all the extra had come from the five loaves.)

“So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the **pieces of the five barley loaves** left over by those who had eaten.” - John 6:13

Everyone had enough to eat. (“as much as they wanted.”)

“...and distributed to those who were seated **as much as they wanted**. He did the same with the fish. ¹²When they had **all had enough to eat**...” - John 6:11,12

Nothing was wasted. The extra was collected.

There were 12 baskets left over — one for each disciple.

Fame

This miraculous sign caused the people to believe that this was the Prophet that had been promised.

Because Jesus’ time had not yet come, He withdrew from the crowd. Note that He didn’t deny that He was the Prophet.

Finally:

Do you believe that God “already has in mind what He’s going to do” in your situation?

Do you have at least a little bit of faith? If you do have a little bit of faith, and a lot of obedience, God can use you in amazing ways.

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