



Sunday, February 8, 2026

John 6:1-15

Today we're stepping into one of Jesus' most iconic miracles - the feeding of the 5,000 in John chapter 6. And I say again, because this is actually the passage that launched our fall series in the Gospel of John.

When I first spoke this in September, there was a strong call that God is just looking for our yes, and not our perfection. That sure, the five loaves and two fish were far too insufficient to feed the multitude, but it was what the boy had. And because he submitted it to Jesus, he was able to transform it and multiply it to feed the masses. The point for us being that when we come to Jesus with what we have, He adds His super to our natural - and what He multiplies becomes transformational.

And this has been such a profound message for our church all throughout the fall and I believe in many ways it's been a message that has bought us great freedom, reminding us that God just wants our hearts, He wants our willingness, He wants our obedience and when He has that, just watch what He will do.

And so, as we've been chronologically, walking through the book of John, today we find ourselves again at this most famous of all miracles. And I'll be honest with you, I have wrestled with whether or not, I preach this text again. In many ways, I feel we could move over it and step right into the next section. But the problem with skipping ahead is that we can miss what John is intentionally setting up by including this story in this exact spot.

And by highlighting the feeding of the 5,000 here, John is preparing us for the truth that the rest of this chapter is grounded in - that Jesus is the Bread of Life.

So today, we're taking a second look at this miracle - not just to revisit what we've already seen, but now to see what else the Holy Spirit wants to reveal here.

Some of this may sound familiar. Some of it will be new. But after being steeped in the book of John for the past five months, there is great value in now, looking at this miracle through the lens of the theme of Jesus' sovereignty that John has been drawing out in John one through five.

If you have your Bibles, please turn with me to John 6:1-15. If you are able to, please stand for the reading of the word of the Lord.

John 6:1-15

‘After this, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). 2 A huge crowd was following him because they saw the signs that he was performing by healing the sick. 3 Jesus went up a mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

4 Now the Passover, a Jewish festival, was near. 5 So when Jesus looked up and noticed a huge crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, “Where will we buy bread so that these people can eat?” 6 He asked this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii[a] worth of bread wouldn’t be enough for each of them to have a little.”

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, 9 “There’s a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish—but what are they for so many?”

10 Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.”

There was plenty of grass in that place; so they sat down. The men numbered about five thousand. 11 Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks he distributed them to those who were seated—so also with the fish, as much as they wanted.

12 When they were full, he told his disciples, “Collect the leftovers so that nothing is wasted.” 13 So they collected them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces from the five barley loaves that were left over by those who had eaten.

14 When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, “This truly is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

15 Therefore, when Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him

king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.’

So as I mentioned in the introduction, when we looked at this story earlier in the fall, we focused on the loaves and fish as a picture of the things we often think are insignificant in our lives - but when offered to Christ, he makes the seemingly insignificant, significant.

And yet, as true as that is, especially in the walk of faith, it’s easy to get caught in the comparison trap. We look at what others bring, decide we don’t measure up, and instead of offering God what we have, we offer nothing at all. All we can see are our insufficiencies - and we forget that Christ is the one who makes our insufficiencies sufficient.

But the truth remains: when we offer what we have to God, he is the one who does the transforming work. And he doesn’t transform what isn’t offered to him.

I have seen this time and time again after being in ministry for over 25 years. And one of my favourite stories actually takes place here at Kingsview. It was probably seven or eight years ago and we were doing one of our regular plugs for help in kidsview, and there was this blue collar young dad sitting at the back who felt the Holy Spirit tugging on his heart and so without ever having any experience in kids ministry, he met with Pastor Joyce and started going down the road of becoming a volunteer.

Before long, he began to notice something - God was doing a work in him. And that step of obedience became a place of transformation. To this day, he is still in kidsview, and is one of the main teachers for many of your kids. All because he didn’t allow what he lacked to keep him from offering what he had.

Loaves and fish, friends :)

Now, that was 5 months ago. A lot has happened in the book of John since then, and something we didn’t talk about in the first go around, but carries deep significance nevertheless is the fact that the disciples picked up 12 baskets of leftovers after everyone was fed. Interestingly, this detail is mentioned in all four gospels, but only in the gospel of John do we see the reason why. Here, Jesus says the leftovers must be picked up, ‘...so that they don’t go to waste.’

At first glance, it almost feels unimportant. The food has been eaten. People are full. What’s left behind is just fragments lying on the ground - it’s just scraps. But notice that even though the people

treated the scraps without value, Jesus intentionally asks His disciples to pick them up because He sees the value where others don't.

But, what's interesting is that we never actually see what the value is in those scraps for Jesus. Once they're collected, the story moves on. And that's it. No explanation. No follow-up. No mention of what happens next. In the very next section, Jesus walks on the water, calms the sea, and then we read an entire 49 verse discourse by Jesus about Him being the Bread of Life.

But, did you know that in just a few short weeks, maybe as long as a month, Jesus will perform this exact same miracle again. This time to a different group of people in a different region, but this story, even though John does not record it, actually gives us some incredible insight into the element of the baskets and the scraps that Jesus wanted the people to save.

The Gospel of Mark records this second miracle and Mark references it as the Feeding of the 4000. Once again, there are loaves and fish. Once again, Jesus blesses the food and multiplies it. Once again, everyone eats their fill. And once again, the disciples are told to gather the leftovers.

But this time, there aren't twelve baskets.
There are seven.

And that difference is significant.

Even though both miracles are mirrors of each other, there are minor differences in each that actually speak volumes.

For example, the feeding of the 5,000 takes place in Jewish territory, near Bethsaida, and there are twelve baskets of leftovers. The feeding of the 4,000 on the other hand, happens in the Decapolis, a Gentile region, and there are seven baskets of leftovers.

The numbers of baskets and the regions that these miracles take place in are significant.

Historically, in Jewish culture, the number twelve represented the people of God. There were twelve tribes of Israel in the Old Testament, and twelve disciples who would become the foundation of the New Testament church. Twelve was the number that pointed to God's covenant people.

Seven, on the other hand, was the number of completion and wholeness.

So, watch what Jesus was doing here. By performing this miracle first in Jewish territory and ending with twelve baskets of leftovers, any Jewish person would have seen the connection immediately. That Jesus was revealing himself as the Bread of Life - the fulfillment of prophecy, the Messiah for God's covenant people, Israel. Hence the 12 baskets.

But then in the very next miracle, Jesus now went to Gentile territory, performed the exact same miracle but now only collected seven baskets of leftovers. And by intentionally doing this, His message was very clear:

Salvation has come to the covenant people of God – the house of Israel – the people of God. But the covenant people of God would no longer be limited to just the Israelites, the covenant people of God would only be complete and whole when the Gentiles are included as well.

As Paul would later say, in the kingdom of God, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female. Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ is now a part of the covenant family of God.

12 & 7!!

So that helps to explain why there are two miracles: the two locations and the different number of baskets of leftovers. But it still leaves one question: why gather the leftovers at all?

Especially when we remember Israel's story in the wilderness.

When God provided manna from heaven, the Israelites were commanded not to keep leftovers. If they tried to store it, it spoiled - which was God's way of teaching them daily dependence - to trust Him for today, and trust Him again for tomorrow. Which was an incredibly valuable lesson for Israel of old to learn.

But here, Jesus does the opposite. He now tells them to gather what remains. So, the message is similar - but the lesson has shifted.

With the Israelites of old, God used bread as a sign of His provision. But here in the New Testament, Jesus is using bread as a sign for His identity. He is the bread of life.

And since that is true, then every single fragment points us back to who Jesus is. And no matter

how big or how small the piece, it carries deep significance - because it points us to the one who sustained all life. Not just for today but for tomorrow and the next day and the next.

Unlike manna, what Jesus provides does not spoil. It is not temporary. It is not fragile. Nothing He gives is disposable or insignificant. Nothing is meant to go to waste. The crowd eats and is satisfied. And what was not consumed in that day will still be good for the next day.

Now, it's true, we don't actually see what happens with those baskets of leftovers, but whether the disciples ate it or the crowds had a second go-around is besides the point.

The point isn't what happens to the leftovers - but that there were leftovers!

That alone is an example of the absolute abundance of God's provision. That Jesus doesn't just meet their need - He exceeds it.

Ultimately, this was a beautiful picture of salvation. The Bread of Life doesn't only meet our needs in this life - He provides a way into the life to come. What Jesus gives doesn't just fill you for a moment; He sustains you for today, and tomorrow, and the days that follow.

And I think, in many ways, the people on the mountain that day, got it and understood. They may not have been able to grasp the full depth of what Jesus was showing them, but Scripture does indicate that after witnessing this, they all drew the same conclusion: this is the one the prophets spoke about. This is the Messiah.

But what happens next shows us that their understanding was still incomplete. In verse 15 we read that they sought to seize Jesus and make Him king. Which, if you remember from last week, Jesus was very careful about how he presented himself for this very reason. If they had succeeded in making him king, they likely would have been disappointed. Because Jesus was not the kind of king they were hoping for. His mission was not to overthrow Roman oppression, but to break the bondage of sin and death. And it was far too early in his ministry for them to understand that fully.

But for you and I here today, this is something that is so clear. Jesus cares about you. Not just your exit from this world, but the life you live while in it.

2 points to consider as we close

In this story we see very clearly that the people devalued the crumbs and scraps thinking that they

were waste. But Jesus did not. He instructed His disciples to pick them up because He did not want them to go to waste. And the same is true for us. There may be things in your life that you don't see as valuable - but God does. So ask Him. Ask Him to reveal to you those things and when He does, place them in His hands and He will take care of the rest.

The simple fact that there were 12 baskets shows us that God is a God of abundance. But that doesn't mean life will always be easy or full of excess. Scripture shows us that sometimes God provides just enough, and other times He provides more - but always exactly what we need. Why?? Because He is a God of abundance - and His abundance flows from who He is, not from our circumstances. He has more than enough, and his ability to sustain us - by His grace, His presence, and His faithfulness - is limitless.

Blessing

May the Lord Bless you and Keep you
May He cause His face to Shine upon you
May He be gracious towards you
Lifting up His countenance upon you
And may He give you peace
In Jesus name, Amen.

Josh Hageman

Lead Pastor

Kingsview Community Church

www.kingsviewchurch.com