

# The Gospel of John: Feeding the Hungry

*John 6:1-15*

## Setting the Scene (v. 1-4)

- East side of the Sea of Galilee
- Crowds had sought Him out because of His healing signs
- Passover: A remembrance feast of God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt
  - Second one mentioned in John (2:12ff)
  - A nationalistic holiday (6:15)
  - Celebrated with a Seder meal centered on the eating of a lamb & bread
  - The backdrop for the Last Supper
  - The original event was followed by God's provision of manna for 40 years

## Problem or Opportunity? (v. 5-9)

- Jesus tests Philip with a question
  - Philip is from the nearby town of Bethsaida
- Philip focuses on what they lack
  - His reply reflects a human outlook
- Andrew points to what they have
  - A boy's lunch: 5 small barley loaves & 2 small fish
    - These details are like Elisha's miracle but on a grander scale (2 Kgs 4:42-44)

## Jesus' Solution (v. 10-13)

- The disciples seat the people
  - 5,000 men + women & children = 15,000+
    - This numbering scheme is reminiscent of the Exodus event
- Jesus gives thanks to His Father for the food & passes it out
- The people eat their fill
  - And there are more leftovers than when they started
    - 12 baskets: He provides amply for His people
- He is showing the people that He is greater than the prophets, including Elisha & Moses
- Jesus' resources are limitless
- His perspective is divine

## Responses (v. 14-15)

- The crowd sees this as proof of Jesus' identity as the Prophet (Dt 18:15, 18-19)
  - Because He gives them bread like Moses (6:31)
- Jesus withdraws because of the crowd's intention: Political revolution
  - Though He is the rightful king of Israel, He will only take His throne by His Father's will

## So What?

- Jesus' resources are limitless & perspective divine
- Do we trust Him to meet all our needs?

**Meditation Verse:** John 6:27

**Next Week's Scripture:** John 6:16-24