

Signs of the Messiah: Feeding the Hungry

(John 6:1-59)

The Setting (v. 1-4)

- An indeterminate amount of time has passed since Jesus healed the paralytic
 - He has returned to Galilee and travels to the east side of the Sea of Galilee
- A crowd follows Him there because of the signs they have seen
- It is near Passover, reflecting on a time of God's deliverance & provision
 - Deliverance: To many Jews, that meant freedom from Roman rule (see v. 15)
 - Provision: God had provided the Israelites food after their departure from Egypt

The Sign (v. 5-15)

- Jesus sees the need of the people, and asks the disciples for a solution
 - Their response is human-centered: Impossible due to limited resources
- Jesus shows them that His resources are boundless
 - He not only provides food for the crowd of 20,000, but there are leftovers
- The people see this as a sign that Jesus is the promised Prophet that Moses spoke of (Deut. 18:15)
 - This may have reminded them of the miraculous feeding through Elisha (2 Kgs 4:42-44)
- They even are hoping to make Him king through forceful rebellion
 - Something Jesus wants nothing to do with

The Bread of Life (v. 25-59)

- The crowd searches for Jesus, who has crossed the lake on foot (v. 16-24), and find Him in the synagogue in Capernaum (v. 59)
- Jesus points out that what they seek is not Him, but the free food He provided
 - He tells them to believe that He is sent from God His Father
- They want manna as a sign that God sent Him
- He calls them to seek true bread/food from heaven = Jesus Himself
 - He is the one that provides and satisfies eternally
- Many struggle to accept this truth
 - Especially as Jesus equates the bread of life with His own flesh and blood
 - They misunderstand His claim, which is made clearer with His disciples at the Last Supper (Mk 14:22-26)
- Because of this hard truth, many turned away from Him (v. 60-66)

So What?

- Jesus is the provider and the eternal satisfier
 - We need to be filled by Him to have eternal life
- Are we looking for Him to provide?
- Do we find ultimate satisfaction in Him?
- Are we letting Him fill us?

Meditation Verse: *John 6:57*