

# Fourth Sign: Feeding the Five Thousand

John 6:1-15 | Ryan Pfeiffer | September 21, 2025

## INTRO.

- Picture the scene... a huge crowd... 5K men... + women/ children...20K!
- John tells us the crowd follows Jesus for the Signs... What does that mean?
- John also tells us it's near the Jewish Passover... their freedom day.
- Commemorates their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. Exodus.
- The crowd comes filled with heightened nationalistic fervor...
- Desperate for immediate relief...
- Desperate for someone to make things right... to restore former glory.

## FOCUS. Are we seeking Signs or Jesus?

### PHILIP: JESUS SEEKS FAITH.

*5 When 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?" 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"*

- Immediately Jesus tests Philip... where shall we buy bread? Can you imagine!
- The question we face today... Where will we find what we need for our families, church, nation...
- The crowd comes searching for Signs... Jesus seeks faith from his disciples.
- Philip looks where we'd all look... 1/2 yrs wage = lit. 200 denarii. 8mo! He completely misses Jesus' point... Why? Why doesn't he see Jesus w/ faith?
- Sometimes desperate times can crowd out Jesus from our faith view.
- Philip sees the solution from a purely human, practical, material level. Faith in a moment like this? Can feel foolish, passive, naive... SMALL.
- It's hard to trust that JESUS ALREADY KNOWS WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO.

### ANDREW: FAITH OF A MUSTARD SEED.

*8 Another 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?"*

- Faith isn't passive or weak... to turn to Jesus first is a concrete action.
- It is the highest engagement of our will, our intellect, and our spirit.
- Philip is just paralyzed... but Andrew... brings what he has... a boy's lunch.
- There is NOTHING we ALONE can do/bring that can meet the gaping need.
- What did Jesus say... "faith as small as a mustard seed"...Matt 17:20.
- The fruit of Andrew's first step of faith is small, meager and looks ridiculous.
- But notice something... once these disciples come to Jesus, the action they take is inspired by faith... not pride... fear... outrage...

What's Jesus asking you to bring to him in faith?

## THE NEW MOSES.

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). 11 Jesus 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. 12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

- Don't miss Jesus "gave thanks". It's meant to remind them of something.
- When the people grumbled against Moses...  
Ex 16:4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you.
- Jesus is the New Moses... he's the promised one... sent to deliver them...

#### **THE CROWD.**

14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." 15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

- The people see the Sign and seek to "force" Jesus to become King.
- Can't you relate to them? Wouldn't we all like to make Jesus king today?

#### **How do we follow Jesus amidst a crowd that wants to make Jesus King?**

John 6:26 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. 27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you...

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.