

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

How Do You Trust the Lord?

John 6:1-13

¹ How do you trust the Lord with your life? John, Chapter 6, verses 1 through 13 should help us answer that question. ² Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Feast was near. ¹ ₃

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?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” ² ₄

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small

¹ v1-4.

² v5-7.

barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”³₅

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. 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.⁴₆

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.⁵

Have any of you invited guests to dinner and then wondered if you had enough food? After the Lord was baptized, He was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by Satan.⁷ The first temptation, or test, for the Lord was to miraculously turn a limestone rock

³ v8-9.

⁴ v10-11.

⁵ v12-13.

into a loaf of bread to satisfy His hunger. ⁶ ⁸ It is interesting that verse 6 here, again miraculously providing food, shows us that this event was to test His disciples. As we notice, one disciple flunked, the other passed! ⁹

The message here, nothing the Lord asks you to do is impossible if He is in it!

I have divided this message into three logical parts to answer our question, "How do you trust the Lord?"
The first thing you need to know is . . . ¹⁰

⁶ Matthew 4:3-4 - The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

I. What the Lord is Capable of Doing!

. . . What the Lord is capable of doing! ¹¹ Notice the situation here. ¹² John the Baptist had been beheaded. ⁷ ¹³ Lord Jesus went by boat to an isolated place near Bethsaida Julia to grieve. ⁸ ¹⁴



⁷ Matthew 14:3-12.

⁸ Matthew 14: 13 & 15.

In verses 2 and 10, the Lord's reputation as a miraculous healer attracted a crowd of five thousand men plus their wives and children.⁹¹⁵ He taught them until late in the day.¹⁰¹⁶

What did the Lord do?¹⁷ Verse 5 says He asked His disciples to feed the hungry.¹⁸ You know, He is asking you to do the same thing!

Jesus told a story about when He would come again. He will gather all the people who have ever lived before Him and separate them into two groups. He will invite one group to come into the kingdom that has been prepared for them since the creation of the world. He will tell the other group to depart into eternal fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels. What was the criteria used to select people for each group? It was how they responded to the needy in practical ways when they had the means and the

⁹ v2 & 10 - A great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. . . There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them.

¹⁰ Matthew 14:15.

opportunity. The kingdom group provided food and drink to the hungry and thirsty; clothes to those in need; comfort and encouragement to the sick and imprisoned. The other group could care less about the needy. ¹¹ Which group would you fit into? ¹⁹

In verse 11 the Lord accepted the meager resources His disciples had. ²⁰ He, then, gave thanks for the bread, probably the Hamotzi blessing, "Blessed are You, Lord, Creator of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth". I hope you make it a habit of thanking the Lord every time you sit down to eat. ²¹ Then, He distributed the food. ²² Then, it is interesting to me, what the disciples did after the meal. Verse 12 relates that they collected the leftovers. The Lord must hate waste! ²³

What was the result? ²⁴ Everyone who was seated ate until they were full. ²⁵ Notice verse 11, all **who were seated** were the ones who ate. Obedience has always been a part of God's plan. ²⁶ Notice verse 12, everyone

¹¹ Matthew 25:31-46.

had enough to eat. ²⁷ Then, in verse 13, twelve baskets of scraps were left over. My wife points out, there's one for each doubting disciple! ²⁸ The Lord provided all the food that was needed! That is what the Lord is capable of doing!

Now, let's look at verses 5 through 7 . . . ²⁹

II. The Response of Doubt - v5-7

. . . The response of doubt. Verses 5 through 7 relate, **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?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”** ³⁰

Who was Philip? ³¹ Since he was from Bethsaida Julia he would have been the logical one to ask. ³²



He had accepted Jesus as the great prophet Moses had predicted. ³³ He brought his brother, Nathaniel, to the Lord. ¹² ³⁴ However, when Greeks wanted to see

¹² John 1:44-45 - Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Jesus, Philip was unsure what to do. ¹³ ₃₅ He was, also, the disciple who asked, **Show us the Father and we will be satisfied.** ¹⁴ ₃₆

He had the response of doubt. ³⁷ The Lord's request seemed too impossible. ³⁸ Verse 10 says there were five thousand men plus their women and children! ³⁹ Verse 7 says it would have taken eight month's wages, two hundred denarii, to hardly give everyone even a bite! This was his way of saying, "Lord. What You are saying is impossible! We just can't do it!" ⁴⁰

Is that response typical of you? How often might you look at a Christian responsibility and say, "I can't do that! It's never been done before! We tried that before and it didn't work!"

Now that we know what the Lord is capable of doing and the response of doubt, let's see verses 8 and 9 for

. . . 41

¹³ John 12:20-22 - Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

¹⁴ John 14:8.

III. The Response of Trust - v8-9

. . . The response of trust! **Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"** ⁴²

Who was Andrew? ⁴³ **He was also from Bethsaida.** ¹⁵ ⁴⁴

¹⁵ John 1:44.



He brought his brother, Peter, to the Lord. ¹⁶ ₄₅ When Philip balked, Andrew was the one who brought the Greeks to the Lord. ¹⁷ Andrew is known as the disciple who brings people to the Lord! ₄₆ Wouldn't you like a reputation like that!

¹⁶ John 1:40-42.

¹⁷ John 12:20-22.

He had the response of trust. ⁴⁷ We discover in these verses that Andrew checked out the food resources. They found five Graham crackers and two sardines. ⁴⁸ His response was not, "We can't do it," but rather, "How far do you think it will go!" Andrew is what Pastor Robert Schuller would call a "possibility thinker!" ⁴⁹

So, what is the Lord's plan for you? ⁵⁰ The Lord's plan is to take your resources and your efforts and use them for what He wants them to be for His glory! ⁵¹

But if the Lord is capable of all this, why doesn't He answer all my prayers? ⁵² Because He's smarter than you are. Your prayers may not have been wise ones! ⁵³ Besides, He is not to be used to satisfy your desires. You are to be used to satisfy His! ⁵⁴

Whenever the Lord wants you to do something, He will provide the way for you to do it. Trust Him!

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