

LESSONS FROM A PICNIC

John 6:1-14



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This story ranks in the "top ten" of the most famous miracles of Jesus Christ. In fact this is the most famous of all His miracles as it alone is recorded by all four gospel accounts. But this is far more than a Sunday school tale. This extraordinary picnic was not just a free meal for five thousand folks; it provided lessons for both ancient and modern disciples. Here are four profound truths that emerge from this lakeside lunch.

LESSONS FROM A PICNIC

John 6:1-14

Jesus provides the biggest meal found anywhere.

Five thousand was the count of men only, besides women and children, meaning a free lunch for ten to fifteen thousand. This is a rare.

Jesus never gave money and he rarely gave food. The meaning is deeper than a picnic. It is the only miracle Jesus performed recorded in all four gospels.



FOUR LIFE CHANGING PRINCIPLES FROM THE PICNIC

1. Problems Don't Escape God's View (vv. 1-4)

Those mad or bitter against God have unfulfilled
expectations

They Follow Jesus on their own terms - See
themselves as Lord and Christ as the servant,
rather than Christ as Lord and self as the slave

We are especially cared for by God

Matthew 6:25-26; Romans 8:32

FOUR LIFE CHANGING PRINCIPLES FROM THE PICNIC

2. Perplexities Test Faith in God's Power

vv. 5-7

Jesus tests beyond the edge to stretch faith

Philip is the hometown guy

When God does something wonderful He begins with a difficulty; when He does something very wonderful He begins with an impossibility

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Will Philip focus on his inadequacy or on God's ability?

Philip failed the test - answers not where, but how much

If Philip couldn't see it, He couldn't believe it

Difficulty must be measured by the capacity of the agent doing the work

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3. People are Part of God's Plan

(vv. 8-10) (boy, Philip, Andrew, disciples)

Andrew

Known as "Simon Peter's brother"

Brought people to Jesus

Simon Peter

Greeks

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Andrew

Boy with the loaves and fish

Boy - John only gospel writer to mention the
boy

Insignificant, poor

Pita bread and pickled fish spread

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Unknown, unnamed, insignificant does not mean unimportant or useless

Something/someone small, placed in the hands of Jesus, can bless a multitude

Jesus could have performed a miracle without any of these people, but He uses people to perform His work

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Don't look at your littleness above His greatness

$5+2=$ not much

$5+2+\text{Jesus}=\text{the sky is the limit}$

Don't forget to factor in Christ's power when
you commit your life into His hands

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4. **Provision** is Abundant in God's Time

(vv. 11-14)

As much as they wanted

They were filled

Exceedingly, abundantly - Ephesians 3:20

Philip calculated on the bare minimum, Jesus
provided the maximum

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Gathered up the fragments

12 disciples, each had a basket

Free lunch and breakfast for his 12

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Del's View- all 12 left over baskets went to the
little boy

He gave his lunch- the disciples didn't have
faith to believe how Jesus was going to feed the
huge crowd

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Luke 6:38 (NASB)

Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.

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Psalm 37:25

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I
not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed
begging bread.

Psalm 23:5

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence
of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with
oil; my cup runneth over.

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2. Perplexities Test Faith in God's Power
(vv. 5-7)
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(boy, Philip, Andrew, disciples)
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