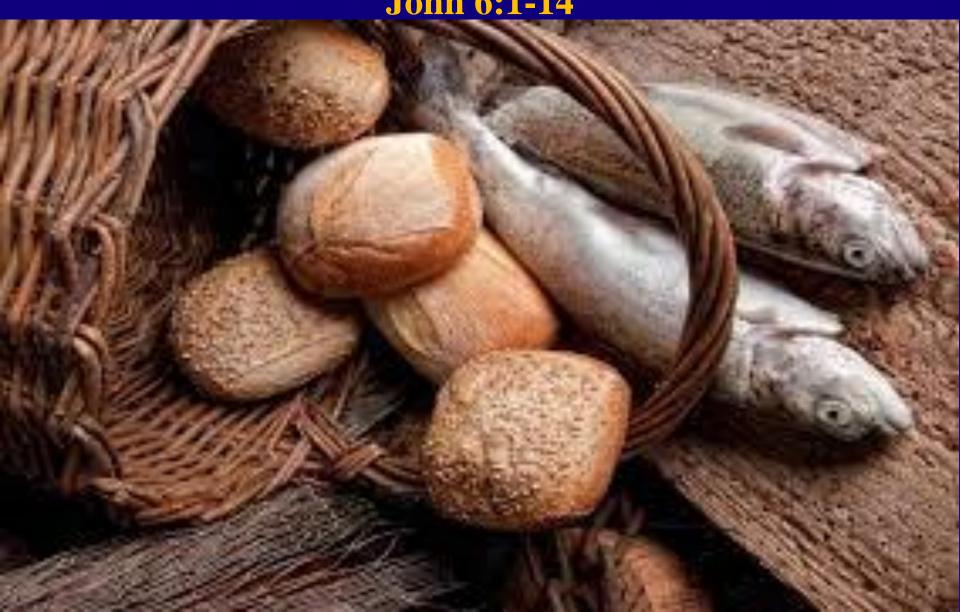
#### LESSONS FROM A PICNIC

John 6:1-14



# LESSONS FROM A PICNIC John 6:1-14

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

# 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.



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

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

Will Philip focus on his <u>inadequacy</u> or on God's <u>ability</u>?

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

If Philip couldn't <u>see</u> it, He couldn't <u>believe</u> it

Difficulty must be <u>measured</u> by the capacity of
the agent doing the work

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

Andrew

Boy with the loaves and fish

Boy - John only gospel writer to mention the boy

Insignificant, poor

Pita bread and pickled fish spread

Unknown, unnamed, insignificant does not mean <u>unimportant</u> 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 <u>people</u> to perform His work

Don't look at your littleness above His greatness

5+2= not much

5+2+Jesus=the sky is the limit

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

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

Gathered up the fragments

12 disciples, each had a basket

Free lunch and breakfast for his 12

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

**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.

#### 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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