

BELIEVE FOR YOUR NEED - JOHN 6:1-13

INTRODUCTION: David McCasland tells a story about an old Chinese salutation, that instead of asking, “**How are you?**” people would ask, “**Have you eaten until you are full?**” McCasland says that the greeting likely originated when food was scarce, and many people did not know when they would eat their next meal. So, when food was available, eating until you were full was prudent. Jesus fed 5,000 men, besides women and children. Not only did they eat until they were full, but there were leftovers, which Jesus commanded be gathered. If Jesus was that concerned about hungry people, that He was determined to meet their needs, and that He involved the disciples, then as disciples of Jesus, we need to be just as concerned. We need to get involved and help meet the needs of those who lack food. Jesus’s refusal to waste leftovers should caution us to cook (or order) to our needs, not our greed. There’s a saying, “don’t be so heavenly minded that you’re no earthly good,” meaning we shouldn’t be so focused on the spiritual and eternal life that we neglect the physical and present needs of people in this life. Following Jesus’s example, we would be of the greatest earthly good if we were truly heavenly-minded. We are responsible for meeting physical needs, which often opens the door to meeting people’s greatest need, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I. JESUS _____ OUR NEED (6:1-5)

“The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.” - Mark 6:30-31.

Jesus’s ministry in the north contrasted with His ministry in the south, and teaches us we need to meet people where they are. **To do that, we need to perceive people’s concerns. Meeting needs are often seeds for planting the good news.** We plant and water it, and it will be God who will give the increase –

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.” – 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

II. JESUS HAS A _____ TO MEET OUR NEED (6:6-10)

“Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?”” vs. 5

Vs. 6... “He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.”

Vs. 7... Philip answered, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.”

“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” - Vs. 9

Andrew brought what he knew wasn't enough and trusted God.

III. JESUS _____ FOR OUR NEED (6:11-13)

We ought to **expect** God to supply our needs, but not necessarily in the way we expect.

*Vs. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, **and when he had given thanks**, he distributed them to those who were seated.*

THANKSGIVING IS _____ !

Pray without ceasing ...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thess. 5:18

“...he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. Vs. 11

“...And when they had eaten their fill...” - Vs. 12

“For He has satisfied the thirsty and filled the hungry with good things” (Ps. 107:9).

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; ...my cup overflows.” - Ps. 23:5

There were 12 disciples. There were 12 baskets left over. When we are obedient, God will also take care of us!

CONCLUSION: An African missionary faced significant difficulty translating the Gospel of John into the local dialect. The main challenge was finding a word for believe. Whenever he tried to translate it, he had to leave a blank. One day, a runner who had traveled a long distance with a vital message arrived exhausted at the camp. He collapsed into a nearby hammock after catching his breath and delivering his message. He muttered a brief phrase that expressed his exhaustion and relief at finding such a comfortable place to rest. The missionary, who had never heard these words before, asked a bystander what the runner said. "Oh, he is saying, **`I'm at the end of myself; therefore, I am resting all my weight here!'**" The missionary exclaimed, "Praise God! That is the very expression I need for the word believe!" When you are at the end of your resources, your wits, and yourself, rest on God's promise to supply all your needs. Sometimes, "the end" is the beginning of God doing exceedingly, abundantly above all we could ask or imagine!