

Miracle Worker

Part Eleven: *better bread*

August 13, 2023

This summer, we are examining some of Jesus' greatest miracles to get to know Him better and learn to trust Him with every part of our lives! Today's focus is on the miracle that showcases Jesus as the supplier of our physical hunger and most importantly, the satisfier of our spiritual cravings.

The Setup **John 6:1-9 NLT**

Jesus and His disciples are on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus' reputation for performing miraculous signs and healing the sick has drawn a large crowd of followers who are attracted to his teachings and compassionate acts. Jesus and His disciples find themselves on a hill facing a challenge as they have run out of food. There are around 10,000 to 20,000 men, women and children present. Jesus tests Philip by asking how they can feed the crowd, and Philip and Andrew express their hesitations. A young boy is found with five barley loaves and two fish. The setup for this miracle reveals Jesus' care and compassion for people and the symbolic connection to the approaching Passover. The passage highlights human limits versus heavenly possibilities.

The Miracle **John 6:10-13 NLT**

Jesus instructs the crowd to sit down—a sign that something significant is about to happen. Jesus takes a small offering of five barley loaves and two fish, gives thanks, and miraculously multiplies the food to feed everyone. His disciples are involved in both distributing the food and collecting the leftovers, showing that even with an infinite supply, Jesus values stewardship and gratitude.

This passage illustrates how obedience in serving leads to God's miracles flowing through us, using what we have at hand to accomplish great things. This concept is emphasized in the story of Moses and his shepherd's staff in Exodus 4:1-5, where God uses what's in Moses' hand to perform a miraculous sign. The lesson is that God values and wants to use what we already possess to fulfill His purposes.

- God can use our small offerings to accomplish great miracles.
- God wants to use what's in your hand.
- What do you have in your hand? Exodus 4:1-5 NLT

The Reaction **John 6:14-15 NLT**

Following the miracle, the crowd witnesses Jesus' miraculous sign of multiplying the food, leading them to believe that he is the expected Prophet. However, their perception is limited, focusing on earthly leadership and physical blessings, obscuring the deeper spiritual aspects. The fact that they need to shift their thinking is crucial. The crowd's intent to make Jesus an earthly king prompts Him to withdraw to the hills, avoiding being entangled in worldly agendas. This underscores the importance of recognizing Jesus as our eternal King, highlighting the transcendent nature of His kingdom beyond worldly ambitions.

- We need to shift our focus from earthly **grain** to heavenly **gain**.

A Better Kind of Bread **John 6:26-27; 30-35 NLT**

Following the miraculous feeding, the crowd follows Jesus to Capernaum, seeking more physical bread. Jesus addresses their materialistic focus, revealing that their pursuit should be of eternal life rather than perishable things. He emphasizes the significance of shifting thoughts from the material to the immaterial and encourages a deeper understanding of spiritual fulfillment. The crowd asks for miraculous signs and references Moses providing bread in the wilderness, to which Jesus responds that He is the true Bread from heaven, offering life to the world. He declares Himself as the "Bread of Life," echoing His "I AM" statements, and compares this concept to the living water from John 4:13-14. The miracle's meaning is multifaceted, demonstrating Jesus' divine power. The physical abundance mirrors the spiritual abundance Jesus offers as the Bread of Life.

- Jesus is **better** than His **bread**
- Jesus **becomes** the **Bread** John 4:13-14 NLT

The miracle is significant for at least 3 reasons:

1. The miracle proves Jesus' divine **power**.
 - The miracle demonstrates he has **command** over **creation**.
2. The miracle shows that Jesus can provide for all our **needs**.
 - The miracle demonstrates absolute **abundance**.
 - Where there is **scarcity**, He can **sustain**.
3. The miracle has spiritual symbolism.
 - We need to shift our minds from earthly **loaf** to heavenly **life**.

Our material world is supposed to point to an immaterial reality. So, any blessing you have is for the purpose of giving glory to God.

The miracle of feeding the 5,000 showcases Jesus as the provider for both our physical necessities and the fulfiller of our spiritual desires. This demonstration highlights Jesus as the miracle worker, capable of turning scarcity into abundance not only in terms of physical sustenance but also within our souls. As we engage with the "Miracle Worker" series, the hope is to cultivate a greater trust in Jesus, allowing us to surrender all aspects of our lives to His attentive care.

Application

1. Use what you Have for God's work.
2. Shift your focus from earthly to heavenly.
3. Recognize God's abundance and provision.