

In our text,

1. The crowd and the disciples are presented with the opportunity of witnessing two miracles performed by Jesus. The first miracle was done to meet their needs, but the second miracle was done to show that Jesus had power beyond just meeting their needs.
2. The second thing we find in our text is an illustration of bread where Jesus shows us that we can come to Him with all our needs, but He is ultimately our greatest need.
3. The third thing we find in the text is a response by the crowd and those close to him.

Two Miracles - John 6:1-29

- In most of the miracles, Jesus meets a **PHYSICAL NEED**; in this one, He shows His **POWER**.

John 6:22-27

- If we are coming to Jesus with only our **EARTHLY PROBLEMS**, then we are missing **JESUS**.
- Don't seek me because I am **USEFUL** to you, seek me because I am **WORTHY**.

John 6:28-29

Illustration - John 6:30-65

- Just as a body without **FOOD** is **DEAD**, our spirit without **JESUS** is **DEAD**.
- Bread can't just be **READ** about, **TALKED** about, or **THOUGHT** about; it must be **CONSUMED (EATEN)**.

Just as food sustains us when we eat it, He sustains believers who fully consume Him and take Him in.

Response - John 6:66-71

- Jesus' teaching wasn't hard to **UNDERSTAND**, it was hard to **ACCEPT**.
- We now have the same choice to either: **REJECT, PRETEND, or CONSUME**.

Growth Group Study Questions For the week of April 9, 2023

QUICK REVIEW:

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. In the passage this weekend, Jesus asserts that just as food sustains us when we eat it, He sustains believers who fully consume Him and take Him in. Pastor Neil talked about how this need for Jesus is much bigger than the fixing of our temporary problems, and if we are only coming to Jesus to meet temporary, physical needs, we will miss Him. This is not to say that Jesus doesn't care about our temporary needs, but He cares much more about our eternal needs. This is demonstrated throughout the Old and New Testaments. Read the account of God sustaining the Israelites in the wilderness in Deuteronomy 8:2-10. Underline or highlight in your Bible with two different colors the physical provisions of God and the spiritual lessons or outcomes He wanted for them.

Deuteronomy 8:2-10 New International Version (NIV)

² Remember how the LORD your God led you in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ³ He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶ Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him. ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; ⁸ a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil,

and honey;⁹ a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.¹⁰ When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

- a. For the Israelites, it was the food they asked for, and for the disciples, it was signs and wonders (John 6:30-31). We all have things we come to Jesus for. What are some of the desires or needs you frequently bring to Jesus in prayer?
 - b. Scripture encourages us to bring all our needs to Jesus, no matter how small or big, temporary, or eternal—both are important to Him. Looking at what you wrote above, what is the life span of each of those needs or requests? How many of them are temporary versus eternal, physical versus spiritual? Do you tend to focus on one more than the other? Is there one you could focus on more?
2. Read **Matthew 7:7-11**. How does this instruction from Jesus fit with, challenge, or strengthen the idea that there is a bigger eternal need He wants to meet than the temporary needs we bring before Him?

Matthew 7:7-11 New International Version (NIV).

⁷ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

- a. What would our prayers look like if we kept both ideas in mind at the same time (that He wants us to come to Him with all our needs, but He is ultimately our greatest need, the giver of life, and what sustains us)?
- b. Sometimes the difficulty of following Jesus is wrestling with the reality that although He gives us instructions like the one above, He doesn't always answer the way we think or desire He will. Is there any encouragement or advice you would tell a friend who is doing what these verses say to do yet not seeing their need met the way they desired? What are some things that are not helpful to say in these situations?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Is there anything in this week's message or study you want to focus on remembering this week?
2. Are there any needs you are currently praying for which you can use the reminder that Jesus is the greater need and the sustainer of life? Are there any needs you want to pray more for?