

Faith In Motion

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>Last week we talked about how the disciples faced an impossible situation. An enormous crowd to feed.</p> <p>— Philip was tested and his focus was on what they lacked instead of what they had. The infant wealth of have Jesus.</p> <p>— — Jesus asked the question He already knew the answer to of Philip and Philip did not answer Jesus question.</p> <p>— — — We saw how it becomes easy for us to take our eyes off of God and focus on the circumstance instead.</p> <p>— — — — We saw that we can so very easily have a defective view of God and how we see God directly shapes how we respond to the impossible situation.</p> <p>— — — — — We talked about slowing down, thinking before we act, thinking before we speak, and renewing our minds; so that fear and circumstance stop driving our decisions.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>Today we are going to talk about those moments where God has told us to do something and we have either froze, argued, or waited for more information before we acted.</p> <p>— We have wanted to see the end before we took the first step. We wanted proof before we committed.</p> <p>— — We will see this is exactly backwards from how God works a lot of the time.</p> <p>— — — Jesus is going to give the disciples an instruction that made no sense without any explanation.</p> <p>— — — — But this is a moment of building their faith as they failed the faith test just before. Jesus is going to work on their faith.</p> <p>— — — — — We will talk about how faith is not something you work up, it is something you walk into.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:

John 6:9- : 1 After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). 2 A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, *said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?” 6 This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do. 7 Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.” 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, *said to Him, 9 “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?” 10 Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men 1sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted. ([John 6:1–11](#), NASB95)

So, we know that the cost of buying food would be pretty crazy, somewhere around \$53,000 and that they have 5 barley loaves and two fish.

—I want us to focus on some details in this passage that we probably have not focused on but I think are critical points to reveal John’s purpose of writing; so that we would believe that Jesus is the Messiah/the savior of the world.

— — So, why is barley loaves mentioned here? What is the deal with barely?

— — — Well, barely loaves were the not the preferred food. It was cheap, coarse, and was considered to be poor people food.

— — — — Barley loaves are unimpressive, not quality bread, not from abundance, and not a wealth food. In fact they would sometimes use barley loaves to feed animals.

— — — — — But Jesus does not look over it the unimpressive, low quality, and poor; He deliberately chooses to work through the weak, small, insufficient.

— — — — — — **READ: [1Corinthians 1:27-29](#): but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of bthe world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 so that no man may boast before God. ([1 Corinthians 1:27–29](#), NASB95).**

— — — — — — — **READ: [2 Corinthians 12:9-10](#): And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, •with bdifficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. ([2 Corinthians 12:9–10](#), NASB95).**

Scripture:

—————We are the barley loaves. We are the poor in spirit, unimpressive, weak, things; but Christ did not over look us. He uses us to do might works, He transforms to into something vastly different.

—————When we think about ourselves in comparison to Christ: **READ: John 6:35: Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. (John 6:35, NASB95).**

—————**READ: John 6:47-51: 47 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. 48 “I am the bread of life. 49 “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 “This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” (John 6:47–51, NASB95).**

Scripture:

What we also see in this sign/miracle is that this miracle is not coming from human sufficiency or human wealth.

— This is a poor boy's lunch, that is right a singular poor boy's lunch not 5-15 thousand. There was no possible way that this little could meet the needs of the the masses. If we look back to the Old Testament we see barley loaves there.

— **READ: 2 Kings 4:42-44: 42 Now a man came from Baal-shalishah (Baal-shall-i-Shaw), and brought the man of God bread of the first fruits, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And he (Elisha) said, "Give *them* to the people that they may eat." 43 His attendant said, "What, will I set this before a hundred men?" But he said, "Give *them* to the people that they may eat, for thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and have *some* left over.' "** 44 So he set *it* before them, and they ate and had *some* left over, according to the word of the Lord. ([2 Kings 4:42-44, NASB95](#)).

— — Elisha feeds 100 men with twenty loaves of barley bread.

— — — So, what is John revealing to us about Jesus? John is telling us that, we have seen this before but not even close to this magnitude.

— — — — Elisha feeds 100 men but Jesus feeds 5,000 men. Elisha had 20 loaves and Jesus had 5.

— — — — — John is showing us that Jesus is not just another prophet in the line of the prophets but Jesus is greater!! Way greater!! Same kind of bread but far greater power.

We have a crowd that does not fully understand Jesus this situation exposes the human condition.

— We constantly look at what we have and measure the situation by that.

— — But Jesus confronts that view. Jesus is not limited by what is in our hands.

Scripture:

But that is not the only reason that we see barley loaves mentioned here but let me tell you this before I get to that.

— In verse 10, it tells us: **READ: John 6:10: Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. (John 6:10, NASB95).**

— — Why does verse 10 tell us that Jesus had them sit down and why does it tell us there was much grass in the place?

— — — John rarely gives us detail like that in his gospel and when he does it usually points to something.

— — — — So, John helps us see this is not a barren desert place or moment. It was a place where a large crowd could actually sit comfortably.

— — — — — But that is a nice things that they can be comfortable but there is so much more that comfort.

We know from Matthew, Mark, and Luke’s Gospel that this is a desolate place: **READ: Luke 9:12: Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, “Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place.” (Luke 9:12, NASB95).**

— John is quietly connecting this miracle to the larger redemptive story as Jesus is about to feed the crowd in a way that looks back to how God feed Israel in the days of Moses. We see this happen in the wilderness as they left Egypt and were wondering God provided them manna, bread, to eat: **READ: Exodus 16:4: Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction. (Exodus 16:4, NASB95).**

Scripture:

This is not the only importance about the grass here. Let's get back to the barley loaves.

— I mentioned it really quick as I was telling what barley loaves were but barley and barley loaves were often fed to animals is Jesus day; more specifically, they were fed to sheep.

— — If you remember to our first sermon in chapter 6, Jesus looked on the people as sheep without a shepherd: **READ: Mark 6:34: When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things. (Mark 6:34, NASB95).**

— — — Now, if we couple that with Psalm 23, we see a bigger picture that the barley and grass paint for us: **READ: Psalms 23:1-3: 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. (Psalm 23:1-3, NASB95).**

— — — — Jesus is not just feeding these people, He is shepherding them. He has them sit down or lie down. Yes, the Hebrew word used in Psalms and the Greek word used in John here are meaning the same thing. These words are pointing to a posture. A flock, a crowd has been caused to lie down on grass by their shepherd/provider before being fed.

— — — — — And as Psalm 23 tells us the shepherd cause us to not want or not be lacking we see that Jesus fed the crowd so that they were satisfied: **READ: John 6:11-12: Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted. 12 When they were filled, He *said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost." (John 6:11-12, NASB95).**

— — — — — Jesus is living out what He will soon say: **READ: John 10:11: "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (John 10:11, NASB95).**

Scripture:

For our practical application, I want us to focus on this question: But why does Jesus instruct the disciples to have the crowd sit down? **READ: Luke 9:14: (For there were about five thousand men.) And He said to His disciples, “Have them sit down to eat in groups of about fifty each.” (Luke 9:14, NASB95).**

—Why does God call us to sit down?

— —First, we had seen the disciples faith had failed.

Remembered we talked about how God put Philip to the test and we saw Him fail that test.

— — —Then we saw Andrew and the rest of the disciples follow Philip in their failing of the test.

— — — —This was another test for the disciples. They had failed the faith test; now Jesus was seeing if they would fail the obedience test.

— — — — —Their obedience here is evidence of them being true believers. Their faith might have been weak so Jesus using one of the best way to strengthen faith; obedience.

Scripture:

Faith begins with God: **READ: Romans 10:17: So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17, NASB95)** and **Ephesians 2:8-9: 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9, NASB95).**

— But obedience strengthens and confirms faith.

— — **READ: James 2:17: Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. (James 2:17, NASB95)**

and speaking of Abraham as he was going to offer Isaac:

READ: James 2:22: You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; (James 2:22, NASB95).

— — Obedience deepens our relationship and understanding of God.

— — — **READ: John 14:21: “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.” (John 14:21, NASB95).**

— — — Obedience strengthens our assurance of God

— — — — **READ: 1 John 2:3: By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. (1 John 2:3, NASB95).**

Scripture:

So, Jesus commands the disciples, He calls them to obedience before they see the miracle. Obedience here is faith expressed through motion. They do not understand what Jesus is going to do yet.

—But though their obedience they witness the miracle in their very hands.

— — Notice what happens: **READ: Matthew 14:19:**

Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed *the food*, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, ([Matthew 14:19](#), NASB95).

— — — The disciples become instruments of the provision but only because they obeyed.

— — — — This is a pattern that we do see in scripture:

— — — — — The feet of the priest had to enter the water first: **READ: Joshua 3:15-16a: 15 and when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest), 16 the waters which were flowing down from above stood *and* rose up in one heap ([Joshua 3:15–16](#), NASB95).**

Scripture:

— — — — — The servants had to draw out and carry water first: **READ: John 2:7-8: Jesus *said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” So they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He *said to them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.” So they took it to him. (John 2:7–8, NASB95).**

— — — — — The stone had to be rolled away first: **READ: John 11:39&41&43-44: Jesus *said, “Remove the stone.” Martha, the sister of the deceased, *said to Him, “Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been *dead* four days.” (John 11:39, NASB95), 41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. (John 11:41, NASB95), 43 •When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.” 44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” (John 11:43–44, NASB95).**

— — — — — In every one of these cases, the obedience precedes the evidence. That is not accidental it is the structure of how faith gets strengthened.

— — — — — Faith is obeying then see not the other way around.

So, Faith does not grow by sitting still; it grows as it is exercised.

— Are you exercising your faith or are you just hoping God will increase your faith without any work on your part?

— — The disciples sat thousands of people for a meal that did not yet exist and then watched Jesus, God in the flesh, feed everyone, every single sheep.

— — — When Jesus give us instruction that doesn't make sense or as we talked about last week, we do not understand, and our faith is wavering; follow through in obedience.

— — — — What has Jesus told you to do that you have not done yet because you can not see how it ends?

— — — — — Faith is not worked up. It is walked into.

Scripture:

-
-
-
-
-
-