

INTRO

- Do you remember experiencing your first snow storm? What was that like?

This series focuses on the 7 miraculous signs of Jesus John records, so that we may KNOW Jesus more fully, TRUST him more deeply, and experience LIFE through him (John 20:30-31).

READ

John 6:1-15

Thirty-seven distinct miracles are recorded in total in the 4 gospel accounts of Jesus' life. This is the only miracle all 4 gospel writers recount.

REFLECT & RESPOND

Maybe you've read this story before, heard someone speak about it, studied it yourself. One of the things we see as we encounter this miracle is God's ability to provide - miraculously - multiplying a little & turning it into plenty. We see that when we bring something seemingly small to offer him, he can turn it into so much more.

In this study as, we look at the Feeding of 5000, let's first consider Jesus' interaction with two men in John's account: Philip and Andrew.

Philip & Jesus**The question:**

"Jesus said to **Philip**, 'Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?'"

The purpose:

"He (*Jesus*) said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do."

The response:

"Philip answered him, '**Two hundred denarii** worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.'"

(A denarius would have been a day's wage)

Qu: Consider the purpose of the question. Why did Jesus ask this question? What was the test? Was he looking for an answer from Philip? Reflect on Philip's answer.

Andrew & Jesus**The question:**

Andrew asks Jesus, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"

The response:

Jesus says, "Have the people sit down." (Now there was much grass in the place.)

Qu: This time it is Andrew asking the question. Jesus did not answer with words. How did he answer? Consider the impact.

All four gospel writers tell this story. Only John actually tells us clearly who this sign is pointing to. (John 6:25-59)

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. — John 6:35

Those chasing after Jesus were looking for a lot of things - food to eat, a new king, mind-boggling miracles. This sign was pointing them to the source of life itself. And they missed it.

In the four Gospels, Jesus asks 307 different questions. Here are just 4 of those questions:

- "What do you want?" John 1:38
- "Who are you looking for?" John 18:7
- "Why were you looking for me? Luke 2:49
- "What do you want me to do for you?" Matt 20:32

Qu: How might reflecting on one of more of these questions help you honestly look at your heart, your motivation and guide you more clearly to know and trust Jesus and have his life? Be specific.

PRAY

- Pray that the questions Jesus asks and the signs we encounter lead us to deeper faith and trust and fullness of life (John 20:30-31