



# Christ Meets Our Needs!

John 6:1-15

# Opening Question?

**Have you ever wondered how you are going to survive through certain difficult situations?**

**Have you ever felt concerned or overwhelmed by the needs and expectations around you?**

When feeling overwhelmed, there is a true temptation to feel like I do not have any strength to give to God or to keep going.

Charles Spurgeon

“The Feeding of the 5000 is in all four gospels so that we will not forget **how much the Lord can do** with the **little things that are yielded to Him.**”



# John 6:1-15

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), <sup>2</sup> and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “**Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?**” <sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

# John 6:1-15

<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.”<sup>8</sup> Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, <sup>9</sup> “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, **but how far will they go among so many?”**

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, “**Have the people sit down.**” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

# John 6:1-15

<sup>12</sup> When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

<sup>14</sup> After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” <sup>15</sup> Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

# Background of John 6

- **Two Key Events: The Death of John the Baptist and The Training of the Twelve** and (Mark 6)
- The disciples went with Jesus to a mountainside **to rest**, but the crowds followed along.
- Jesus uses this situation as a teaching opportunity for his disciples and the crowds (John 6:5, John 6:25-59)

“ But these are **written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God**, and that by believing **you may have life in his name**.” (John 20:31)

# Roadmap

John 6:1-15

- I. People Are **Needy**
- II. We are **Inadequate** To Meet People's Needs
- III. Jesus Can Meet **ANY Needs!**
- IV. Jesus chooses To **Use Us** to Meet Needs

# I. People are Needy

*Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), <sup>2</sup> and a **great crowd of people followed him** because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> The Jewish Passover Festival was near. (John 6:1-4)*







Maslow's hierarchy of needs

# I. People are Needy

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**The Needs are Everywhere!!** → The longer you live in this world, the more needs we will see.

**But how should we respond?** → There is so much uncertainty in our world today and it can feel overwhelming seeing the **unmet needs** in our community.

## II. We are Inadequate To Meet People's Needs

*When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”<sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. – John 6:5-6*

**Philip's practical solution to the problem:** <sup>7</sup> *Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”*

**Andrew's Faithfulness?:** <sup>9</sup> *Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”*

## II. We are Inadequate To Meet People's Needs

*When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”<sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. – John 6:5-6*

So Often, we think there's **no way** we can meet others' needs.

We say to ourselves: “I don't have the resources and abilities to make this happen.”

**What we need to do is DRAW NEAR to what God is already doing.**



# III. Jesus Can Meet Any Needs

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated **as much as they wanted**. He did the same with the fish.

**A. Christ is in Control of every Situation** → Nothing Stumps Jesus. He is Lord over every problem we have ever had!

**B. Christ is not limited by our inadequate resources.** → JESUS created the bread that feeds the multitude. You don't need to worry about the time, money, or spiritual gifts that we have. God is beyond our hope.

# III. Jesus Can Meet Any Needs

**C. Christ is more concerned for Needy People than we are.** → The disciples saw the crowds as someone else' issue, but Jesus “had **compassion** on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd” (Mark 6:34)

**D. Christ abundantly supplies for all our TRUE needs (spiritual)**

- **John 6:51** → <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world
- **Ephesians 1:3** → Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

# III. Jesus Can Meet Any Needs

**TRUTH:** God doesn't always give us what we want. But He does answer our needs!

Our true need is to be **RECONCILED TO HIM!**

John 6:32-35 → Jesus said to them, "...it is my Father who gives you the **true bread** from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

<sup>34</sup> "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." <sup>35</sup> **Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.**

# IV. Jesus Chooses to Use Us to Meet Needs

Jesus wants to use His imperfect followers for His Kingdom glory.

But how can we possibly make an impact??

- 1. SEEK CHRIST** → Be intentional about dwelling on what God is already doing in you and your community. **(Prayer Walks)**
- 2. SURRENDER** our Inadequate Resources to Him. → HE WILL MULTIPLY what we have. He will refresh and restore our souls.

## IV. Jesus Chooses to Use Us to Meet Needs

**Robert Morrison** (1782-1834) First Protestant missionary and first Bible translator in China



## IV. Jesus Chooses to Use Us to Meet Needs

### THREE HUGE OBSTACLES FOR MORRISON:

- **First**, the Chinese were forbidden by the Government to teach the language to anyone, under penalty of death.
- **Secondly**, no one could remain in China except for purposes of trade.
- **Thirdly**, the Roman Catholic missionaries at Macau, who were protected by the Portuguese, would be bitterly hostile, and stir up the people against a Protestant missionary.



## IV. Jesus Chooses to Use Us to Meet Needs

When he was headed to China(1807); the owner of the boat on which the young missionary was traveling sarcastically said:

- "And so, Mr. Morrison, do you really expect to make an impression on the idolatry of the great Chinese Empire?" "No, sir," Morrison replied, "but I expect God will."



## IV. Jesus Chooses to Use Us to Meet Needs

“There is now in Canton a state of society, in respect of Chinese, totally different from what I found in 1807.

Chinese scholars, missionary students, English presses and Chinese Scriptures, with public worship of God, have all **grown up** since that period. **I have served my generation faithfully until I must (leave this world)”** - (1833)



# Conclusion

## Two Prayers for our Church:

- **For those who have never tasted of Jesus.**  
Please draw near and see that Christ is sufficient for all of your needs!
- **For those who never offered their limited resources to Jesus to serve others.** In Faith, please devote your limited time and energy to serve God's people!