
Bible Study

Lesson 4

The book of John



Jesus, the Bread of Life

In this lesson we will study about the most exciting and important miracle that Jesus ever did. This miracle is the only one that is written in all four of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Do you know which miracle is recorded all four times? It is the miracle that Jesus did when He fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two small fish.

There are some great lessons that Jesus was trying to teach when He fed this huge crowd of people.

When many people saw this miracle, they wanted to make Jesus the king in Jerusalem. They thought He could perform a miracle and force the Roman government to leave Jerusalem. The Jews hated the rule of the Roman government. But the kingdom that Jesus came to build is not a physical kingdom of buildings and thrones. His kingdom is in the hearts of all who will accept Him and believe on His name. His kingdom is eternal.

Jesus told the people, "I am the bread of life." What does this mean?

Search the Scriptures: John 6:1-71. Jesus shows himself to be the One who can satisfy both our spiritual needs and physical needs.

Interpretation

I. BREAD FOR A LARGE GROUP

John 6:5-9, 11. When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence (where) shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? . . . And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

After preaching for a long time, Jesus and His disciples went across the Sea of Galilee to rest and have private instruction. But the crowds of people saw them and they gathered around Jesus. Jesus was tired, but He did not send the people away. After a long day Jesus asked one of his followers (Philip) where they could buy food for the people. Jesus knew already that He would do a miracle, but Jesus wanted His followers to learn to completely trust Him. Jesus wanted to make their faith strong.

Philip did not know where they would get food for all the people. Philip knew it would take more than eight months' wages to feed such a large crowd. Andrew found a boy who was willing to put his lunch into the hands of Jesus. But even Andrew said that this boy's lunch was so small that it could never feed so many people. Jesus also wanted to teach His followers that He can use even small things if they are in His hands.

Even today, no matter who you are, or how little talent you have, Jesus can use you if you will put yourself in His hands. As deaf people we wonder sometimes, "How can God use me; my talents and abilities are so small." But if we will give ourselves to Jesus. He can use us for His glory.

Before Jesus began to pass out the bread and fish, He told His disciples to have the people sit down on the grass. This was a step of faith. Then Jesus gave thanks and began to break the bread. From only the five loaves and two fish, Jesus fed the five thousand men plus possibly their wives and children. When everyone was full, there were twelve baskets of bread and fish left over. Jesus supplied more than enough to feed the people.

God loves to meet our needs today with the same great love. If we will put our trust in Him, He will supply all our needs—more than we could ever hope for. Read John 10:10 and Ephesians 3:20. God will abundantly meet your need if you will place your need in His hands.



Word Power

1. **BREAD OF LIFE**—If we are hungry, bread will fill us up and satisfy our hungry feeling. Much bread will make a person fat. Jesus is like the bread for our lives. Jesus fills our lives up and satisfies us. Jesus is the Bread of Life.
2. **CANNIBAL**—A person who eats the body and flesh of other people.

II. TRUE BREAD

John 6:26, 32-35. Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily (truly), I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. . . . Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily (truly), I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. They said unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life; He that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

The next day Jesus was on the other side of the sea when the people gathered again. Many seemed eager to follow Jesus. But Jesus knew their real thoughts. He knew that the only reason they followed Him was to be satisfied with free food again. The people only were interested in the “pot luck” dinner they thought Jesus would prepare for them. Like some deaf today, the only time they are seen in church is on the Sunday when the meal will be served after the service.

Jesus told the people to stop following Him only to receive food for their bellies. It is time that they become just as interested in seeking for spiritual food that helps them grow spiritually. Through the miracle of feeding the five thousand people, God showed the world that Jesus is the **Bread of Life**.

Some people in the crowd told Jesus, “If you are really the Messiah (Christ) then call down manna (bread) from heaven like Moses did in the Old Testament.” (See John 6:30, 31.) Jesus showed them that Moses did not bring the manna from heaven, God did. But even that bread did not last very long. Then only thing that most people wanted then was more bread to put in their baskets.

When Jesus told the people about the *True Bread* that was come down from heaven, the people said, “Give us this bread.” Then Jesus said it very clearly, “**I AM** the Bread of Life.” Jesus was saying, “If you really want to be filled in your souls and have eternal life, accept Me, because I am the Bread of Life.”

On the day of the miracle, Jesus broke the bread. Jesus, the Bread of Life, was also broken. His body was beaten and nailed to a cross so that we could have eternal life. Jesus gave the bread to the people on the day of the miracle. Also Jesus, the True Bread, gave himself for you and me. We must take Him as our Saviour and Lord if we want to have eternal life.

III. TRUE BREAD FOR EVERYONE

John 6:51, 52. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove (discussed) among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

The Jews began to criticize Jesus when He presented himself as the True Bread from heaven. The people said, “Who does He think He is? We know Him. We know His mother and father.” (See John 6:41, 42.)

The Jews would not permit themselves to be drawn to Jesus. They refused to believe and accept this message.

Jesus did not mean for them to really eat his flesh like **cannibals**. He did not mean for them to come and bite Him. Jesus was speaking spiritually. He meant that as the Bread of Life, they needed to eat that Bread (life). In other words, they should accept and take the True Bread (Jesus) into their hearts. This is the only way to eternal life. Jesus himself is the True Bread. He can give life, because He IS Life.

We can partake (eat) of the Bread of Life by reading the Word (the Bible). We must eat of this Bread every day. What would happen if you ate only one meal every week? You would become weak and sick. Maybe you would die. It is the same with our relationship to God. We must continue to eat of the Bread of Life to live a strong Christian life that is pleasing to Him.



??THINK??

True or False

- _____ 1. Jesus fed 50,000 people with 50 loaves of bread and only two fish.
- _____ 2. Philip found a boy who was willing to give 5 loaves and 2 fish.
- _____ 3. If we are willing to give ourselves to Jesus, He can use us for His glory.
- _____ 4. Jesus is the True Bread of Life.
- _____ 5. This lesson shows us that Jesus can satisfy all our needs.
- _____ 6. Some people followed Jesus only to get food from Him free and see Him do miracles.
- _____ 7. As a deaf Christian, I follow Jesus because I love Him with all my heart.

For correct answers

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