

**LEARNING INTO THIS LOVE****FEEDING OUR SOULS**

John 6:1 – 14

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**MESSAGE NOTES**

What we can learn from a lunchbox:

1. In the middle of our needs, we usually have no idea what God is up to.
2. Even in our confusion, even when the answers aren't clear, God is shaping us.

*Far from keeping us from being overwhelmed, God often throws us in over our heads so that we'll look to Him for rescue and salvation. We misunderstand God's purposes in this. We are convinced He is most interested in keeping us safe, but that is not true. He is not after our safety; He is after our faith and our love, and to get both, He must expose us to risk and suffering. We'll never see His power if we refuse to have ours limited. — Mike Erre, Astonished*

3. Our greatest needs, deficiencies, and frustrations are often where God shows us His greatest provision.
4. When we honestly submit to Him with what we have, we end up having our own needs met in totally unplanned ways.

*The real question facing us is not whether or not we believe that Jesus fed the five thousand so many years ago, but whether or not we believe He can do it again. Will Jesus use our limited resources — our five loaves and two fish — to feed the hungry, to heal the broken, and to bring hope to a world that never has enough of it? It would take a miracle — but that is our Savior's worry. All you are asked to do is to take what you have, place it in Jesus' hands, and give thanks.*

— M Craig Barnes, *Sacred Trust*

5. In the end we discover that what we needed all along wasn't what we thought we wanted.

*Desire is infinite partly because we were made by God, made for God, made to need God, and made to run on God. We can be satisfied only by the One who is infinite, eternal, and able to supply all our needs; we are only at home in God. When we fall away from God, the desire for the infinite remains, but it is displaced upon things that will certainly lead to destruction.*

— Dallas Willard, *Life Without Lack*

*Lord, You made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You. — Augustine, 4th c.*

*All men seek happiness, this is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves. ... All complain — princes and subjects, noblemen and commoners, old and young, strong and weak, learned and ignorant, healthy and sick, of all countries, all times, all ages, and all conditions. ... Such universal dissatisfaction ought to convince us of our inability to reach the good by our own efforts, ... — Pascal, 17th c.*

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me. — Revelation 3:20*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read John 6:1 – 14 and share any observations that come to mind just from looking at the event described.
- What's one significant insight you gained from the sermon this weekend?
- When you think back on your own life, can you recall thinking that something or someone would ultimately make you happy or meet your deepest needs?
- How has God helped you see that everything other than Himself ultimately is flawed and ultimately breaks down?
- What kind of "test" do you think Jesus was giving to Philip in v. 6? Are you aware of any ways that God has brought a similar sort of test into your life as well?
- Why do you think that Jesus provided beyond what they people could actually eat that day?
- What is one way God has been showing you His provisions lately?
- As you look ahead, what is one need or area of life where you have to simply trust in God for His provision in His time and way?