

JESUS IS THE ONE
WHO NOURISHES

John 6

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

- In this passage, Jesus feeds the 5,000. As a result, the crowds seek Him afterward for more food.
- Jesus teaches them that the food that they need is not from this world but from heaven.
- Jesus urges them to believe in Him, but they reject or don't understand His message.
- Many of His disciples stop following Him.

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

- The feeding of the 5000 is in all four gospels:
 - Mathew 14:13-21
 - Mark 6:30-44
 - Luke 9:10-17
 - John 6:1-14

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

- In this first section we read that Jesus goes to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.
- This is in the Spring (Passover) on the Eastern side of the Sea of Galilee.
- The people who have seen His miracles follow Him. Because it is late in the day, they are hungry.
- What follows is a lesson in: “how to feed a multitude of people with few resources.”

FEEDING THE 5000



BELIEVE AND TRUST
THAT JESUS WILL
PROVIDE

JOHN 6:1-15

THE TEST (1-7)

- Jesus has many people following Him.
- (vs. 2) The people were following Jesus because they have seen the way He has healed the sick.
- But for Jesus, it is not about signs, wonders, and miracles.
- These merely demonstrate that He is the Messiah.
- This miracle takes place during Passover.

THE TEST (1-7)

- Passover was a time to reflect back on what God had done by sparing the Israelite from the angel of Death.
- It was also a time to reflect on what God provided for them and what He would provide for them again.
- God will provide physical bread, but Jesus speaks of Himself as the bread of heaven.
- He is God's ultimate provision for God's people.

THE TEST (1-7)

- The fact that 5,000 men were in attendance shows the influence Jesus now has.
- With women and children, the number could have been as high as 20,000.
- Why did Jesus ask Philip, where to buy food?
- Philip was from Bethsaida (John 1:44) which was the closest town. He would know the local resources.

THE TEST (1-7)

- Jesus is not only testing the disciples but also demonstrating the need for a miracle.
- There wasn't enough money to buy enough food, but there also wasn't enough food in that little village to feed everyone who gathered around Jesus.
- Application: Sometimes God tests people in the Bible to refine their faith (Genesis 22:1-18; James 1:2, 13-15, 1 Peter 1:7).

THE SOLUTION (8-11)

- Andrew has a plan. He found a boy carrying a lunch that consists of barley loaves and small fish.
- One commentator estimated what it would cost just to give everyone a bite of food.
 - A denarius was equal to a day's ages.
 - 200 denarii would buy 4,800 quarts of barley or 1,600 quarts of wheat.

THE SOLUTION (8-11)

- This simple lunch shows how a useless thing can become important in the hands of Jesus.
- Jesus tells them to sit down and begins to distribute the food.
- This passage reminds us that Jesus is all-sufficient.
- Application: Jesus wants to meet our needs.

HOW JESUS RESPONDS

- How does Jesus respond to the situation?
 - When a crowd comes, Jesus welcomes them.
 - When asked to send them away, Jesus challenges them and tests them.
 - When faced with limited resources, Jesus multiplies the resources.

THE RESULT (12-14)

- Why does Jesus tell them to gather the leftovers?
- First, it was a further lesson to the disciples of the abundance of the provision from Jesus.
- Second, the number of baskets is significant. All four gospels make a point of mentioning the number (12).
- There is enough to supply the needs of the twelve tribes of Israel. Notice that after the feeding of the 4000, there are seven baskets left.

THE RESULT (12-14)

- Why do the gospel writers think this is significant?
- Since the promise given in Deuteronomy 18, the Jews have been looking for another Moses.
- Jesus brings food to the multitude in a way similar to the way Moses brought manna to the Israelites.
- This is why they call him a “prophet who is to come into the world.”

THE ESCAPE (15)

- Jesus has to make an escape for two reasons:
 - First, the people want to carry Him up to Jerusalem and proclaim Him king at the Passover.
 - Notice that John mentions this, but the other gospels do not. He tries to provide context and foreshadowing of what will happen to Jesus.
 - Second, the enemies of Christ (Herod, Pharisees) want to put Him to death (John 5:18).

FOLLOW JESUS
FOR WHO HE IS

JOHN 6:16-51

FAITH IS WILLING TRUST (16-24)

- The Sea of Galilee lies 600 feet below sea level, and the distance across the north end is about 5 miles.
- The other gospels tell us that Jesus sent them away.
- They are rowing across a dark lake at night as the sea becomes rough because of a strong wind.
- Jesus uses this miracle to once again address their problems with faith and fear.

JESUS BOAT



FAITH IS WILLING TRUST (16-24)

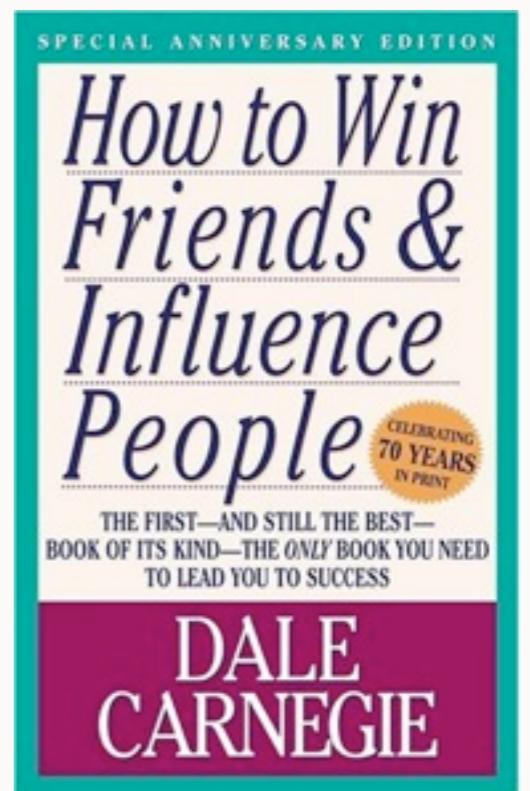
- This was no ghost or mystical apparition brought about by their terrified emotion.
- Jesus says, “It is I; do not be afraid.”
- (vs. 21) John tells us that “immediately” they were on shore. But earlier John tells us that they saw Jesus in the middle of the Sea of Galilee.
- This may have been another miracle of Jesus.

FAITH IS WILLING TRUST (16-24)

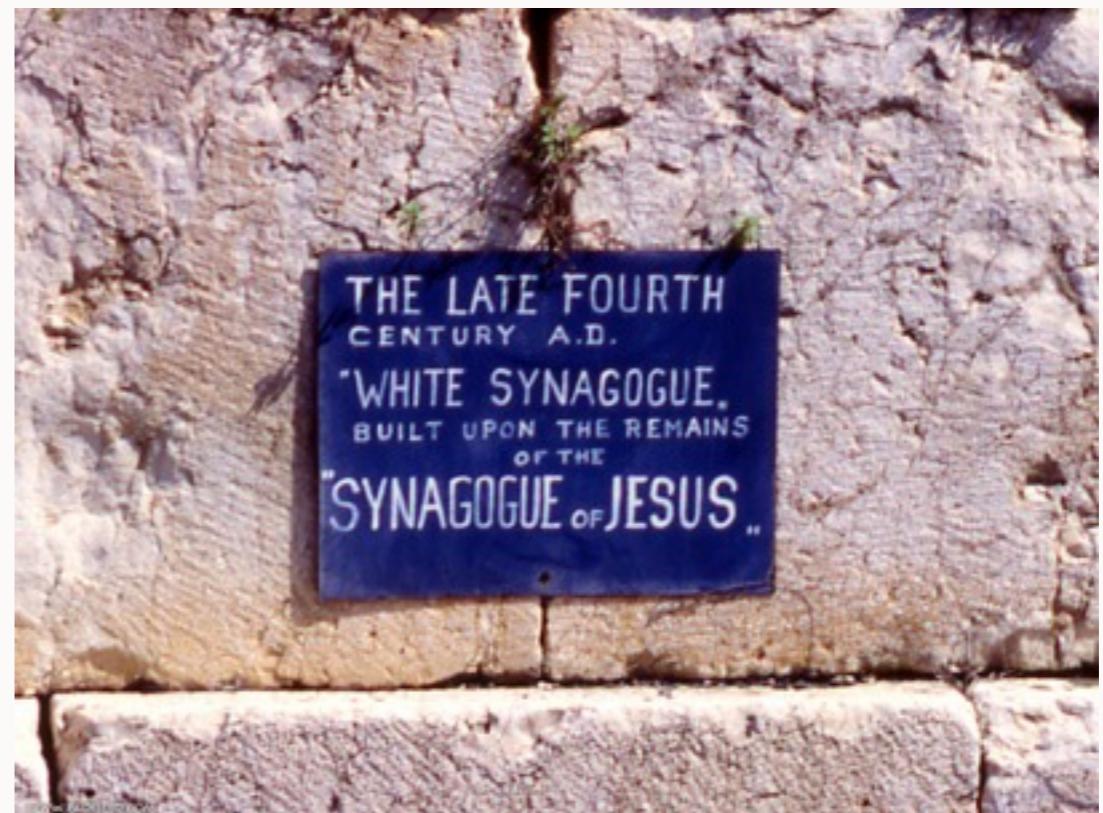
- (vs. 22) The next day the people are looking for Jesus.
- What do they want? More food? To take him to Jerusalem to be King?
- (vs. 24) When they saw that He was not on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, “they got into the boats and went to Capernaum seeking Jesus.”
- They were hardly prepared for what they heard.

LOSING FRIENDS

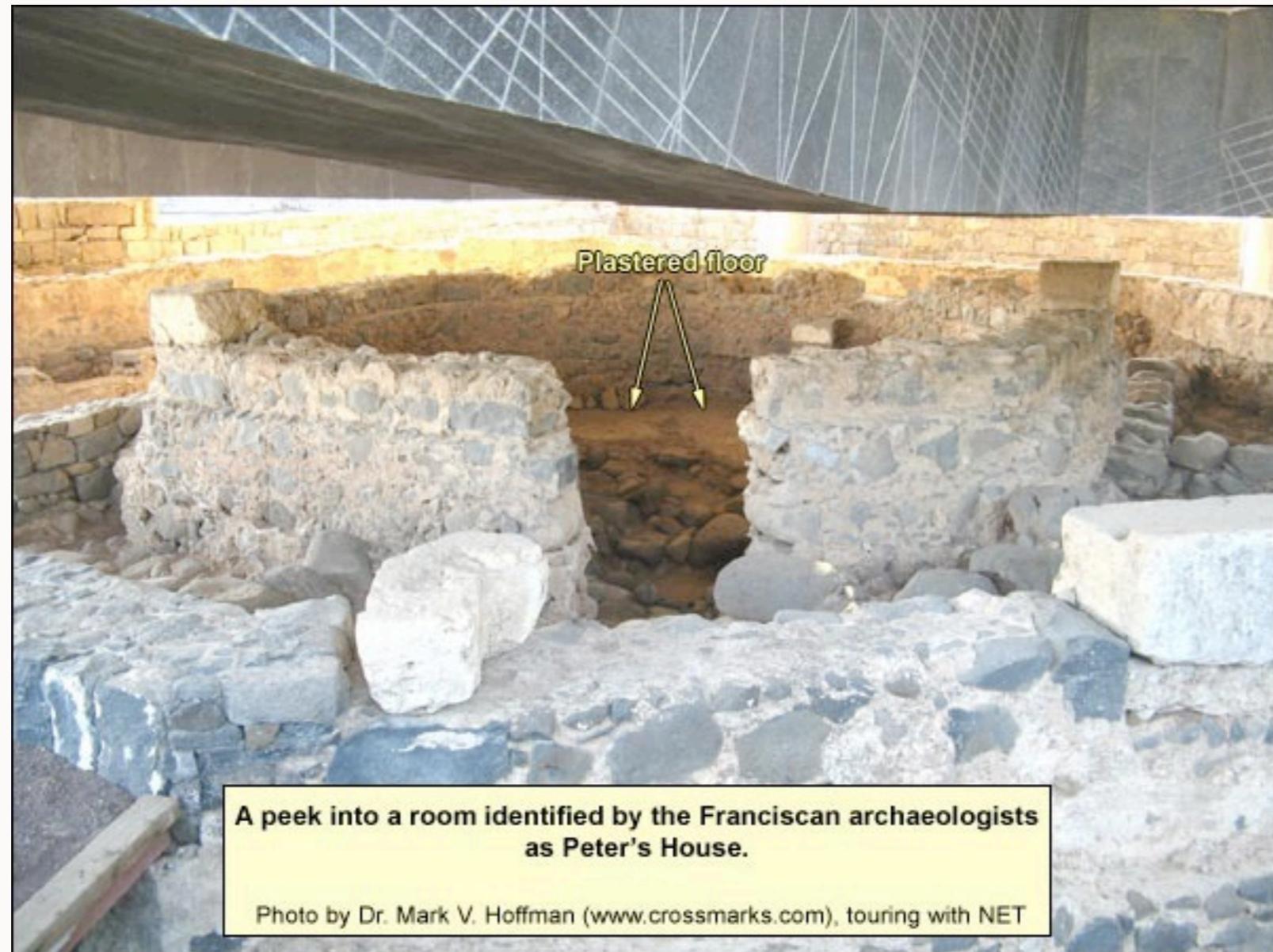
- Dale Carnegie wrote his famous book, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.
- The title of this message by Jesus could be called: *How to Lose Friends and Make Enemies*.
- With one message Jesus is able to whittle down the number of people who are following Him.
- Many disciples left Him (vs. 66).



CAPERNAUM SYNAGOGUE



CAPERNAUM PETER'S HOUSE



FAITH IS ETERNAL CHOICE (25-33)

- The people didn't have a theological question. They just wanted to know when he arrived.
- Jesus cuts through the pretended interest to the key issue (similar to conversation with Nicodemus).
- (vs. 26) “You are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of loaves.”
- Application: Not wrong to seek Jesus, but we should do so for the right purpose.

FAITH IS ETERNAL CHOICE (25-33)

- (vs. 28) Their second question focused on salvation.
- They wanted to know what works to do in order to achieve salvation. Jesus tells them to believe in Him.
- Notice they want another sign. Didn't they just see a sign from Jesus and proclaim Him to be a prophet?
- (vs. 31) They received manna in the wilderness but did not give God credit for doing so.

FAITH IS ETERNAL CHOICE (25-33)

- Jesus redirects their questions from physical bread to the fact that He is “the bread of life.”
- The Greek word for bread (*artos*) appears one hundred times in the New Testament:
 - Satan tempts Jesus to turn stones into bread.
 - Jesus teaches them to pray about daily bread.
 - He explains that He is the bread of life.

FAITH IS MENTAL ASSENT (34-51)

- Jesus gives a sermon that drives away so many who had been following him.
- The sermon could be listed “I Am the Bread of Life.”
- After the opening statement, he accuses them of indifference (you have seen me and do not believe).
- Jesus came down from heaven and does the will of the Father. They do not believe (give mental assent).

FAITH IS MENTAL ASSENT (34-51)

- (vs. 41-42) Now the Jewish leaders break in and grumble because He said He was the bread of life and came down from heaven.
- Is this not the son of Joseph? (ad hominem, genetic)
- (vs. 44) No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.
- (vs. 46) No one has seen the Father. These are spiritually blind Jews in a Jewish synagogue.

FAITH IS MENTAL ASSENT (34-51)

- (vs. 51) Jesus proclaims that He is the living bread.
- The Israelites ate the manna in the desert and died because it was only physical bread.
- But the living bread (Jesus) provides eternal life.
- The death and resurrection of Jesus provides the opportunity for us to take that living bread and have eternal life.

BELIEVE THAT THE
SACRIFICE OF JESUS
GIVES LIFE

JOHN 6:52-71

GIVES LIFE

- Jesus claims that those who follow Him must eat of his body and drink of His blood.
- The Jews are confused because they are focused on physical bread.
- (vs. 60) The disciples say the words of Jesus are “hard to listen to.” The Greek word here does not mean difficult but rather “offensive.”
- Some of his disciple would not believe His words.

GIVES LIFE

- (vs. 66) Many of His disciples turned back and walked away from Him.
- Jesus turns to those remaining and asks if they want to leave as well.
- Peter asks “to whom shall we go?” Only Jesus has words of eternal life.
- The disciples knew there was nowhere else they could go to find what they had in Christ.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE

TIME AND PLACE

- Where did the feeding of the 5000 take place?
- Tour guides will sometimes take visitors to a place not far from the Mount of the Beatitudes.
- The Bible says that Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Why?
- Matthew 14 explains that Herod received word about the miracles Jesus was performing. He thought Jesus might be John the Baptist risen from the dead.

TIME AND PLACE

- Jesus went to a “secluded place” on the other side of the Sea of Galilee.
- The Jordan River was the boundary of Herod’s kingdom. By sailing to the eastern side of the lake, Jesus left Herod’s jurisdiction.
- Luke 9 records that the miracle took place near Bethsaida but in a “desolate place.”

TIME AND PLACE

- John and Mark provide two important details as to the time of this miracle.
- Mark 6:39 - says that the people were instructed to sit on the *green* grass. The only time you find green grass in that part of Israel is after the rainy season.
- John adds in his account that the Passover (which is usually in March or April) was near.
- The miracle took place in the Spring.

FEEDING OF 4000

- Two gospels (Matthew and Mark) record a second feeding of 4000.
- If these two gospels had not recorded both miracles, skeptics would have pointed to this as an example of inaccurate history recorded in the Bible.
- Why did they record two miraculous feedings?
- Before the feeding of the 4000, Jesus was in the district of Tyre and Sidon.

FEEDING OF 4000

- This is where the Canaanite woman approached Jesus to heal her daughter.
- She and the people around her are pagan (Gentile) people. The disciples of Jesus assumed that Jesus came only for the house of Israel.
- Jesus then travels to the northernmost city of the Decapolis (this would be present day Jordan).
- Jesus heals people in this pagan area (hot springs).

FEEDING OF 4000

- After healing these Gentiles, Jesus announced they needed to feed people before sending them away.
- This time, the disciples seemed ready, because they had a small supply of bread and fish.
- He fed the 4000 and then instructed the disciples to gather up the leftover: seven baskets.
- John 10:16 - “I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also.”

NEXT WEEK

- Next week we will study John 7.
 - Jesus travels to Judea and begins to teach.
 - The Jews question who taught Jesus.
 - He responds that His knowledge and authority come from the Father.



