

Remnant Life Church

September 10, 2017

John

The Fifth Sign: The Feeding of the 5000 (pt 2)

John 6:1-15 – 2 Kings 4:42-44

- First sign – turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-12)
- The second sign – clearing the temple (John 2:13-25)
- The third sign – the healing of the official's son (John 4:43-54)
- The fourth - the healing of the lame man by the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15)
- The fifth – feeding of the 5000 (John 6:1-15)

Review

- Jesus demonstrates several things with this miracle
 - His compassion for people's needs
 - His power over the natural
 - He was also training and continuing to prepare His disciples for the work they would continue after He left
 - What is most amazing about this – they did not even know that was what He was doing
 - Many times God is preparing us through the circumstances of our lives and most of the time we do not even know it
- In this Jesus shows that, once again, the church leaders were focused on the wrong things
 - Two weeks ago we talked about a man healed after being lame for 38 years and all the Jewish leaders could see was that Jesus broke a Sabbath law that THEY had created!
 - In other words – laws of man, not God
 - Don't miss what is most important by always grabbing the lowest hanging fruit – look for greater things
- The disciples wanted to send the people away but Jesus said you feed them (Luke 9:13)
- But Jesus provides an opportunity for the disciples to not only bless the people but do it in a way that will take them beyond themselves
 - Taking the path most often used (conventional wisdom?) is often not the best way to go especially when it comes to following Jesus
 - Jesus did not follow the standard way of doing things
 - He only did what His Father told Him to do
- Jesus is also demonstrating a biblical principle that is consistent throughout both the OT and NT – that of sowing and reaping
 - Gal 6:7-9 - *“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*

- **Luke 6:38** - Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
 - **Job 4:8** - As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.
 - **Prov 11:18** - He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.
 - **Hosea 10:12** - Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love . . .
 - **James 3:18** - Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.
 - It is true in how we live and what we do with what God has blessed us with
 - This has to do with tithing
 - Do not cry out to God about why He does not seem to answer your prayers regarding your finances if you do not tithe
 - Not just give, but tithe
 - You cannot ignore this principle and expect to reap a harvest you do not sow
 - As Jesus feeds the multitude we get to see a demonstration of the math of God
 - The formula: 5 + 2 x God = food for 5000 with a remainder of 12
 - That is because God is not enough He is TOO MUCH
- This morning I also want us to look at an OT connection with what Jesus does here with what occurred through the prophet Elisha
- **READ 2 Kings 4:42-44** –
 - *A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain, along with some heads of new grain. “Give it to the people to eat,” Elisha said. “How can I set this before a hundred men?” his servant asked But Elisha answered, “Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: ‘They will eat and have some left over.’” Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD.*
- We can recognize 4 parallels between the 2 accounts
 - The first is the use of the barley loaf (**2 Kg 5:42; Jn 6:9**)
 - John identifies the bread in detail the others do not
 - Barley – in the time of Jesus was more plentiful and cheaper than wheat
 - A barley loaf was the food of the poor
 - The second is the presence of a boy or servant (**2 Kg 5:43; Jn 6:9**)
 - The word in the NT is pah – DAH - reeon
 - In the OT it is nay-AIR
 - Both of these words can be translated to mean boy or servant
 - The third is the expression of doubt
 - Elisha’s servant (**2 Kg 4:43**)

- Philip and Andrew (Jn 6:7-9)
 - The fourth is the miracle of food being produced in a way that is supernatural and abundant
- In this John is linking the signs of Jesus to the 2 previous major times of miraculous activity in the history of Israel – the time of Moses and the ministries of Elijah/Elisha
 - Through Moses God first provided bread (manna) in the desert (Ex 16)
 - We also see them both again in the synoptics through their accounts of the transfiguration (something John does not record) with the appearance of Moses and Elijah (Matt 17; Mark 9; Luke 9)
- What we also then have revealed is the message of salvation
 - The feeding of the 5000 is tied to the first miracle back in the 2nd chapter of John
 - Jesus provided abundant wine at the wedding in Cana
 - He provided abundant bread for the people on the hillside
 - Bread and wine are the very symbols of Jesus' body and blood given as a sacrifice to pay the price for our sins
 - It also represents the messianic banquet that is found throughout the writings of the prophets, in the parables of Jesus, and specifically the banquet feast in heaven that we are promised as His children in Isa 25
- In Jesus' ministry on earth He was always doing 2 things:
 - Pointing people to the love of His Father
 - Preparing for the coming of His Father's Kingdom
 - Salvation for all who believe
 - Loving one another
- That is still what we should be doing today
 - The love of the Father is not found in words alone but in how we live, how we demonstrate that love
 - Not with the people who you love and get along with
 - But with those who are unlovely, unkind, rude, or stand for everything that you find repugnant, evil, and contrary to God's Word
 - Can you still love them?
- **Matt 18:14** - *In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.*
 - The verses before are the parable of the lost sheep and Jesus concludes with this verse
 - But the verses immediately following are how to deal with sin in the church
 - **Matt 18:15** - *If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over*
 - Jesus taught that we should care about the lost but no more than we care for one another

- Until we learn to love in this way we will continue - within the church - to injure and harm one another, be divided, have our feelings hurt, as well as carry unforgiveness and bitterness in our lives
 - It will eat us away and keep the love of God from being seen in our lives
 - It will also allow the enemy to move freely among us if we give place to him in our lives
- Let us be a place where he cannot do that because of our love