

Remnant Life Church
March 14, 2021
“Supernatural: The Work of Jesus
Pt 1
Feeding the 5000”
John 6:1-13

What is the natural?

- It is those things that occur within the realm of our 5 senses
 - As well as understanding and explanation within the boundary of our minds
 - Many might add that to quantify something as natural means that must be explainable by scientific means and method
 - BUT the problem with that is science is not permanent nor

What is Supernatural?

- Anything that operates outside of what is commonly or scientifically accepted
 - Jesus operated in the supernatural the entire time He lived on earth
 - The evidence of it we call “miracles”
 - Every miracle Jesus performed was an act of the supernatural
 - In His 3 years of ministry, the Bible records 36 miracles – although John writes that there were many more that were not (**John 20:30**)
- What lies beyond our understanding? - FAITH
 - **Heb 11:1** - *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*
 - **Matt. 17:20** - *Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.*
 - Why does it take such little faith to accomplish great things?
 - Because our little faith joins to the awesome power of God

Hosea 4:6 - *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*

- This word knowledge holds two meanings
 - The first is understanding
 - But the other is wisdom
- Read it again – *My people are destroyed for a lack of understanding/wisdom*
- This is also the reason the supernatural acts of God are so limited today – lack of understanding and lack of wisdom

In order to see the things of God in the supernatural

- You must understand it for what it is (as well as what it is not)
- And you must have the wisdom to utilize that understanding properly

This morning, we are going to look at the first of several supernatural acts of Jesus as examples of both knowledge and wise understanding of the supernatural

The Feeding of the 5000

- This is the only miracle that is recorded in all 4 of the Gospel accounts (**Matt 14**; **Mark 6**; **Luke 9**, **John 6**)
- It is the 18th of the 36 recorded miracles in the Gospel accounts
- The same type of miracle is repeated again later in **Matt 15** and **Mark 8** but with 4000 as the recorded number
- Of the four, John's account is the most detailed

READ – **John 6:1-13**

We are going to look at John's account verse by verse (exegetical preaching – meaning of the verses themselves)

1. **Vs. 1** - Jesus is traveling from the west shore of the Sea of Galilee to the east shore
 - a. With the exception of crossing the Sea of Galilee, Jesus walked everywhere He went
 - i. He never traveled more than about 50 or 60 miles in either direction from Nazareth, where He was from
 - ii. It is estimated that he probably walked at least 3000 miles in His three years of ministry
 - b. When reading – what questions present themselves?
 - i. Where was Jesus before this?
 - ii. What direction is he traveling?
 - iii. Context!
 - c. Jesus is in Capernaum prior to this time having come up from Jerusalem
 - d. He sets sail along the northern coast of the lake and makes landfall on the other side near Bethsaida – a distance of about 4 miles by water
 - i. There is a large plain between the town of Bethsaida and the shore line
 - ii. Today part of the Golan Heights and the Magrase Nature Reserve
2. **Vs. 2** - we have the first example of what the supernatural does
 - a. It draws attention – the same reason it often does not last
 - i. Revivals are most often accompanied by the supernatural
 - ii. But the fame is one reason they do not last
 - b. The people were not following Jesus to obey Him or learn about the Kingdom of Heaven
 - c. They were following because of the fame of the miracles
 - d. IOW – to get something from Jesus
 - i. Is our relationship with Jesus based only on what we get?
 - ii. Yes, salvation – eternal life with Him – set free of the penalty – we have received much!
 - iii. But should there not be more
 - iv. Serving Him, praising Him, living for Him?
3. **Vs. 3** - Jesus takes the disciples further into that grassy plain to have some time with them alone most likely to teach them

- a. Note that the plans of Jesus never blinded Him to the needs of the people
 - b. How many times was He traveling to a destination but stopped to help someone in need?
4. **Vs. 4** - tells us when this was taking place
- a. The Passover was celebrated in the time of year when the lambs were available for sacrifice
 - b. Meaning it was sometime in March or April
5. **Vs. 5** - begins to move into the heart of the story
- a. The crowd followed Jesus – from Capernaum along the shore a distance of about 9 miles
 - b. The time needed to make that trip is why the other accounts tell us that it is getting late in the day
 - c. Because of that Jesus asks where they will get food to feed the people

REMEMBER – whenever we read that God or Jesus asked a question, it was not because information was needed

- Questions were asked for two primary purposes
 - The first was to make a point the person needed to understand
 - Conversation between God and Job
 - **Job 38:4** - *Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.*
 - The second was to test the person just as Jesus does here
 - The word test is most often associated with temptation or something negative
 - But in the original language this a neutral word and is appropriate to describe what Jesus was doing

We also see in verse 5 that Jesus asks the question directly to Phillip

- d. Was Jesus picking on Phillip?
 - e. Did he just happen to be the closest to Jesus at that moment? (the wrong place at the wrong time)
 - f. Consider this question – where was Phillip from?
 - i. **John 1:44** tells us that he was from Bethsaida (as were Andrew and Peter)
 - ii. Jesus was saying, 'Phillip, this is your home area where can the people get something to eat?'
6. **Vs. 6** – a qualifying statement by John
- a. In order for the reader to be clear that Jesus was not asking for information He did not already have
 - b. We are told that Jesus already knew the answer and what He was going to do