



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Series: Jesus in John

Message: *“Lord of the Passover Meal”*

Text: John 6:1-15, 16-21

DATE: January 10, 2021

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

John 6:1-15, Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (God told of another prophet-Jesus who would come), Exodus 12 (Instructions for Passover week), John 18:36 (Jesus Kingdom is not of this world), Luke 9:7-9 (Herod was seeking Jesus), Matthew 14:6-12 (John the Baptist had just been beheaded), John 8:2 (Jesus pulled away and taught his disciples), Job 5:19 (God’s provident hand), Psalm 23:2 Mark 6:39 (The Lord leads us to green pastures to teach us)

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[John 6:1-15]

“After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³ Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵ Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷ Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹ “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” ¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the

people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.”

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 6:1–16.

[John 6:17-21]

¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” ²¹ Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 6:17–21.

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

[PASSOVER OF THE JEWS]

“Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed” (v. 7). Luke’s mention of “the day of Unleavened bread” in conjunction with “Passover” fixes the date. The lamb was slain on Nisan 14 between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m., when the new day began for the Jews, Nisan 15, the Passover meal was eaten, thus also beginning the week of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Nisan 15–21).

Luke is also precise about Jesus’ careful preparations:

Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.” “Where do you want us to prepare for it?” they asked. He replied, “As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there.” (vv. 8–12)

The counterintelligence-like secrecy was due to the fact that Jesus was quite aware of Judas' intention to betray him at a time when he and the disciples were isolated. If Jesus had let it be known where the rendezvous and meal would occur, Judas would have informed on them, the meal would never have taken place, and the institution of the Lord's Supper would never have been given to the Church. So Jesus himself had prearranged the place and the secret signs by which Peter and John would find it. Women normally carried water jars, while men carried water in skins. Thus their guide was easily recognizable.

Everything went like clockwork: "They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover" (v. 13). The householder led them to a large room above his home "all furnished"—literally, "spread," indicating that the couches were arranged and covered for the meal. Jesus' two most trusted disciples hurried off to purchase a lamb and all the trimmings for the feast, then stand in one of the three great sacrificial shifts at the temple, bear the lamb back to the house, present the skin to the owner, put the lamb roast on, with the falling dark light the candles, and wait for Jesus and the others.

From the onset of this near-final event, we see that Jesus was in control of his destiny. He was not caught like a rag doll on the relentless gears of history. He was not done in by a satanic plot. Jesus would accomplish everything he set out to do—and on his own schedule."

R. Kent Hughes, *Luke: That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1998), 314–315.

[THE LAST SUPPER]

Passover and the Lord's Supper

All four gospels give an account of the "Last Supper" Jesus shares with His disciples before He is arrested (Matt 26:17–25; Mark 14:12–21; Luke 22:7–13; John 13:1–30). In the Synoptic Gospels, this meal is explicitly identified as Jesus celebrating the Passover with His disciples, and it is the only Passover mentioned in the Synoptics. John does not explicitly connect the Last Supper with a Passover observance due to his symbolic chronology that has Jesus' crucifixion coincide with the slaughter of the Passover lambs (John 19:14, 36).

All the Synoptic Gospels record Jesus' institution of the "Lord's Supper" during this Last Supper (Matt 26:26–29; Mark 14:12–25; Luke 22:14–23). While there is debate over whether this Last Supper actually coincided with the Passover and whether the Last Supper was even a Passover meal, Routledge has demonstrated that the Passover celebration provides the best context for understanding the significance of the Last Supper (Routledge, "Passover and Last Supper," 203–22; on the debate, see bibliography at 205n7).

The question of whether the Last Supper was a Passover observance arises in part because the Gospel writers only mention the bread and wine, not the “other traditional elements such as the lamb and bitter herbs” (Routledge, “Passover and Last Supper,” 204). However, this absence of detail should not be emphasized against the explicit statements that Jesus and His disciples were preparing to “eat the Passover” (Matt 26:17; Mark 14:12, 14; Luke 22:8, 11, 15). While the Lord’s Supper was instituted at Passover, the observance of the Lord’s Supper was not linked to the ongoing observance of Passover. For example, Paul points to “the theological significance of Christ as the Passover lamb, but he does not link this with his instructions about the Lord’s Supper” (Routledge, “Passover and Last Supper,” 204; 1 Cor 5:6–8).

Christ as Passover Lamb

The Gospel of John explicitly links the crucifixion of Christ with the symbolism of Passover, presenting the fact that Jesus’ legs were not broken as a fulfillment of Exod 12:46 (John 19:31–36). The symbolism of the Lord’s Supper also substitutes Christ himself for the Passover elements as the symbol of redemption (for the link between unleavened bread and redemption, see Routledge, “Passover and Last Supper,” 216).”

Douglas Mangum, “Passover,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

“Jesus’ [miracles] are not supernatural miracles in a natural world. They are the only “natural” thing in a world that is unnatural, demonized and wounded.”

-Jurgen Moltmann

OUTLINE:

I. (v1-5) COMPASSION

“After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now **the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.** ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?”

A. Many followed Jesus but few were drawn to Him

1. *The crowd followed Jesus because of the things he was doing for people (healing)*
2. *The crowd was relentless and followed him from one place to another (desire to receive physical blessings)*
3. *Jesus pulled away to the disciples to teach them the deeper things*
4. *Jesus was always pulling away from the large crowds to draw in the few to a more intimate knowledge of Himself*

B. Jesus pulled away to the mountains as symbolic of being near the father

C. The Passover of the Jews would have increased the following of Jesus as there was a large crowd on the roads heading towards Jerusalem

D. It is significant that Jesus is showing up before the people right before the Passover

1. *This sign points to the final Passover as the blood of Christ applied to all who will believe (at Calvary)*
2. *This sign is symbolic of the Passover meal (the eating of the lamb that was slain)*
3. *This sign points to Jesus as the Passover lamb that must become part of us (consumed as we are in Christ)*

E. Jesus sees the crowd and sees their need

1. The People are weary and hungry from traveling
2. Jesus is there to meet their need
 - a) Jesus usually met the physical need before he ministered to their spiritual needs (model of ministry)
3. Jesus has compassion for them (Matthew 14:14)

- a) Healed their sick
- b) And prepares to feed them

F. This sign is one of just a few Signs done in a large crowd

G. This sign is mentioned in all four of the Gospel (the only other sign mentioned in all four gospels is the resurrection)

H. This sign pairs well with the water to wine in John 2 (Wine-the Blood of Christ shed for us and the loaves- the body of Christ broken for us)

II. (v5-9) PROVIDENCE

“Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat? ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷ Philip answered him, “**Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough** for each of them to get a little.” ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?””

A. Philip’s heart/faith is tested- (JESUS KNEW HIS HEART)

1. *The purpose of the testing is to reveal that every man’s heart is at the core unbelieving and evil (Jeremiah 17:9)*
2. *Our hearts will always prove the be wicked*

B. Philip was like us and only seeing the impossible nature of the circumstances (looking through human eyes) (JESUS KNEW THE CIRCUMSTANCES)

1. *1 Denarius was a day’s wages so this would have been 200 day’s/or with months wages (too expensive)*
 - a) *Philip calculated the cost without Christ*
2. *That much bread was most likely not available to purchase*
3. *(v10) there were 5,000 men which means the crowd in total could have been as much as 20,000*

C. Andrew- was obedient to Christ in looking for a way to feed the Crowd - Mark 6:38 (JESUS TAUGHT OBEDIENCE) (WE PRAY AND SEEK ANSWERS)

1. *Jesus always rewards/blesses obedience (means of blessings)*
 - a) *Blessing for ourselves*

b) Blessings for others

D. Andrew only found a little boy with 5 loaves of Barley and 2 pickled fishes (JESUS KNEW THE RESOURCES)

1. *The Fishes were the size of Sardines (very small)*
2. *The loaves were Barley (the cheapest/ usually used to feed animals)*
3. *Man's inability magnifies the need for Jesus to provide a way*
4. *JESUS as the Son of God is omnipotent (All-powerful and able)*

E. The Little boy was placed there by God with what he had (JESUS PROVIDED)

1. *God always has what is needed on-site to accomplish the task even if we don't think we have enough or the right kind of materials*
2. *The little boy most likely had no idea what Jesus was going to do with his lunch but he surrendered it to Jesus anyways*
3. *The little boy represents those who are the least of these*
 - a) *May not be rich*
 - b) *May not be ultra-talented*
 - c) *May not be well known or liked*
 - d) *Jesus was always drawn to the lowly*

F. The Lord always brings His servants forward at the right time

1. *The little boy just needed to bring what he had and Jesus would do the rest*
2. *When we bring what God has given us to minister with He will bless it and use it beyond our imagination*
3. *The Lord associates with our feebleness (Spurgeon)*
4. *Small insignificant things to man in the Lord's hands become great tools to minister (God owns it all/bring what He gives you)*
5. *If the Boy had not surrendered his fishes and loaves his blessing would have ended with one small meal*
 - a) *But because he surrendered what he had the small meal became a large meal for his belly*
 - b) *And a great spiritual blessing to grow his faith*
6. *The Lord will always provide enough to meet the need*

III. (v10-15) ABUNDANCE

¹⁰ Jesus said, “**Have the people sit down.**” Now there was much grass in the place. So *the men sat down, about five thousand in number.* ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, and when **he had given thanks**, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, **they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”** ¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, *Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.*”

Matthew 14:19 “...He looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and ***gave them to the disciples***, and ***the disciples gave them to the crowds.***”

- A. Jesus brought the people to a green place
 - 1. *He causes us to be in a place of rest and feeding*
 - a) *Sickness and injury can be used to force rest when we do not listen or take the rest we need*
(1) *Psalm 23:2*
- B. The Fishes and loaves were turned over to Jesus
 - 1. *Everything we have must be given back to Jesus as a gift*
 - 2. *A ministry must come from Him and the tools must be surrendered to Him first*
- C. Jesus accepted the offering (even though man thought it was small)
- D. Jesus gave the example to us of giving thanks for what was provided before He multiplied it
- E. Jesus then uses the Disciples to distribute back to the people
 - 1. *We the church are the means/medium by which God bless the people who are in need (Spiritual & Physical needs)*
 - 2. *Ministers give all we have to the Lord and yet He allows us to still be the vehicle by which He distributed the blessing to others*

- F. Once the people had been filled there were leftovers (Fragments)
1. *Nothing was to be wasted*
 - a) *None of God's resources should ever be wasted but used to their max*
 2. *12 baskets of fragments were left over*
 - a) *12 disciples/12 baskets*
 - b) *This represents the abundance that overflowed to the ministers as they had more than their share when it was all over (JESUS TAKES CARE OF HIS MINISTERS)*
- G. Through the sign people began to realize Jesus was a prophet
1. *They wanted to force him to become King immediately*
 - a) *But He had to be come the priest and sacrifice before He could be King*
 - (1) *In the end, Jesus is Prophet, Priest, and King (Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh- Wisemen's gifts Matthew 2)*
 - b) *No one could force or place on Him the title of King*
 - (1) *Jesus was born king*
 - (2) *Jesus is Lord of Lords and no one has right over God the Son*
- H. Jesus knew their hearts and desires
1. *Jesus withdrew from the crowds again*
 - a) *It was not time to be appointed King before man*
 - b) *Jesus withdrew to be alone with the Father as we should all do when life gets tough and we know God's will is in the works*

“God is not limited to means but often He employs them...”

-Arthur Pink

