

Feeding the 5,000: God Tests His Disciples

John 6:1-15

1. Jesus tests His disciples (verses 1-7)

- **Spiritual tests show what is in our hearts**

Deuteronomy 8:2 And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, whether you would keep His commandments or not.”

Psalm 11:4-11 The Lord is in His holy temple; the Lord’s throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. (5) The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. (6) Upon the wicked He will rain snares; fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup. (7) For the Lord is righteous; He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face.

- **Spiritual tests are opportunities to show & grow our faith**

James 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, (3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (4) And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 Peter 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, (7) that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

- **Spiritual tests let us share with Jesus in His sufferings**

Colossians 1:24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ’s afflictions.

2. We give our best, knowing it’s not enough (verses 8-9)

- **We worship the only God, who is worthy of our best**

Malachi 1:11 “For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure for My name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord of hosts.

Romans 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

- **God uses big tests to strengthen our dependence on Him and our hope in Him**

2 Corinthians 1:8-10a For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; (9) indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; (10) who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope.

3. Jesus meets our needs with His abundance (verses 10-13)

- **Jesus brings peace, organization, & control into stressful situations**

Luke 9:14-15 And He said to His disciples, "Have them recline to eat in groups of about fifty each." (15) And they did so, and had them all recline.

- **Jesus sought God's blessing over a little offering**

Luke 9:16 And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them, and broke them, and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the multitude.

- **Jesus provides abundantly**

Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

4. God's abundant blessing should lead us to worship & submission to Him (verses 14-15)

- **The people recognized that Jesus was the Prophet whom Moses spoke about**

Deuteronomy 18:15 "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him."

- **Jesus Himself submitted to the Father's plan**

John 5:19 Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner."