

Jesus Is Enough

John 6:1-21

Have you ever had "enough" of something? Some of us feel that way about the rain that hit us day after day it seemed in the month of May. Or, during winter, we've had enough of cold weather. What we're communicating when we say, "I've had enough," is that we've reached our limit. We've reached a threshold. Something's got to give. We can't go on. We reach our limits about all kinds of things. We have all had enough of: that person's attitude, the bad service at that particular restaurant or store, or even the way someone does a thing a particular way. Enough is enough. Even the writer of Proverbs wrote about this: "Three things are never satisfied; four never say, 'Enough': Sheol, the barren womb, the land never satisfied with water, and the fire that never says, 'Enough' (Proverbs 30:15-16). These things are never satisfied. And, what can meet those deepest needs or longings? Or, for purposes of this morning, who can help when you're at your breaking point? Well, you can probably guess that the Biblical answer is Jesus. But, that might not be what we expect, especially out of the three episodes we'll look at today.

As we transition to John 6 today, remember that John's writing so that his readers might know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in His name. Part of our believing in Jesus is seeing Him as "enough" for all the junk of life. His name speaks of His ability to back up these claims. In chapter 5, we've spent some time with John unpacking some plot development. Jesus healed an invalid on the Sabbath. This created quite

the stir, with people persecuting and even plotting to kill Jesus. But, Jesus knows the heart. He knows what people are thinking before they open their mouths. So, Jesus proceeds to explain and give some foundation as to why He should be heard and believed. This was where we ended last time and our passage will pick up today with "after this." So, the explanation to hear and believe in Jesus is fresh on our minds. The action will pick up from there.

And, today, Jesus sets out to actively back up those claims. He can be heard, believed, and relied on for all the stuff of life. So, I hope to show you how Jesus meets all kinds of great needs today, so that you may believe and have life in His name.

If you're an unbeliever, you may seek some sort of proof as to whether Jesus can be trusted or not and what will emerge in this passage today is that no matter your need, Jesus not only knows this (often before you do), He also acts so that these needs can be met in accordance with His Father's will. He's seen today as the One in whom you can believe. So, I hope you'll do that today. I hope trust comes out of your life.

And, if you're a believer, there's so much for us in this passage, too. Because God acts for our good, as well. Jesus will ask one of His followers a question to test Him. In other words, we're given insight into how Jesus acts for the good of His people. He's meeting needs out of His goodness for our good. We also see Him allow His followers to toil, He

withdraws from them, and even gives them object lessons so that they rest in Him. So, I hope you don't walk out of here missing the lessons Jesus has for you. Draw near to Him. Believe in Him. He's your prophet, priest, and king. Worship Him as this kind of Lord, today. Join me, then, as we see 3 ways in which Jesus meets great needs...

Read John 6:1-21

3 ways in which Jesus meets great needs...

First of all, I. Jesus meets the needs of people with **provision**. (1-14)

[1] 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!"

After Jesus's interaction with the Jews in chapter 5, He went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd was following Him, because they liked the signs that He was doing on the sick. Our hope in this is that these signs are having the effect they're meant to have: that the crowds see Jesus for who He is and believe. Jesus went up on the mountain and sat down with His disciples. The Passover was at hand. And, we're told that Jesus was...

A) lifting up His eyes – Jesus almost anticipates the needs we have before they exist. He sees the large crowd coming after Him, and He asks Philip a question, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" Jesus felt a compassion for this crowd coming after Him and marveling at the signs He's doing. If a crowd came after us, we might not have the compulsion to feed them, let alone spend time with them. But, Jesus isn't like us. His ways are higher and greater. He has higher purposes to unfold. And, Jesus asks Philip this question about feeding the crowd. But, in v.6, John tells us that Jesus knew what He would do, He was asking this of Philip...

B) to test him – Interesting isn't it? Jesus asking questions, knowing that He's going to do something, to test His followers. I've wondered about what Jesus' motives might be for this. One thought had to do with the reality of what we

saw in chapter 5. Do His followers get what He has said about who He is? Are they hearing and believing in Him? We could use the context that will end at chapter 6 to get to another motive: are they just here for the show? Or are His followers really following Him for who He is and what He's doing? Regardless of what the motive may have been, Jesus asked this to test him. And, Philip responds that 200 denarii worth of bread wouldn't be enough for them to get a little. Think of a denarii as one day's wage. So, what someone makes through 3 quarters of the year, roughly, wouldn't be enough bread for each of these people to get a snack of bread (at least in Philip's thought). But, Andrew speaks up and says, speaking of snacks, "There is a boy here who has 5 barley loaves and 2 fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was much grass in the place (a random detail that helps prove the authenticity of the story). It ended up being 5,000 men. Jesus took loaves and gave thanks, distributed them to those who were seated, and the fish, too. Notice the standard? Philip's eye was originally on "getting each a little" and Andrew said, "what are 5 loaves and 2 fish for so many people." Now, everyone received...

C) as much as they wanted – They ate their fill. And, Jesus had the disciples gather up the leftovers, that nothing was lost. They gathered and filled 12 baskets (presumably one for each disciple). And, when the people saw the sign He had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet, who is to come into the world." This sounds a lot like what the

Samaritan woman understood at first: there's one coming into the world. They see this sign and see Him as the Prophet. Jesus met the crowds great need with provision: He provided food for them.

Secondly, our passage continues showing us how Jesus meets great needs as we see...

II. Jesus meets the needs of the crowd by **withdrawing**. (15)

[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.

You might not think that Jesus is meeting the need of the crowd by withdrawing from them, but if you look at v.15, you can see why this was the best for everyone. He perceived they were about to come and take Him by force to...

A) make him king – think about that for a second. The crowd, motivated by group think at this point, has been wowed and experienced an amazing provision. They think they have an understanding in their minds about who He is. So, whether He wants to or not, they are going to come. They are going to draw near. Then, they are going to take Him by force. They are going to tell the One sent from God, "Our will be done," one way or another. And, specifically, their "will" for Jesus is that they will take Him by force and make Him king. So, our passage shows that...

B) Jesus withdrew – again (this wasn't the first time Jesus had to do this) to the mountain by himself. Often, in the

Gospels, when Jesus withdraws by Himself, He does so to pray or to commune with His Father. We're not told that here. The point is that the greatest need this flash mob had was for Jesus to withdraw. He's not interested in the populist of people with their self-serving agendas (be careful church people). He's most interested in fulfilling the mission that was given to Him by His Father. In the passage that follows this one, down through v.40, Jesus will reiterate to the crowd that He's here to do the work of His Father, to accomplish His will. This is the highest pursuit that Jesus has (and still is). You may have an idea as to how Jesus ought to act to meet your deepest needs in this particular moment. And, if He's not meeting those on your terms, it might be time to consider who He is and His mission. Jesus meets great needs by withdrawing.

Third and finally, III. Jesus meets the needs of His disciples by **coming near**. (16-21)

[16] When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, [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.

In contrast to Jesus' treatment of the crowds, we have this amazing display of Jesus' care for deep needs in vv.16-21. Notice the scene. This has probably been a rough day for

Jesus' disciples. After all, Jesus has fed 5000 men. They had picked up the pieces, literally. They had also picked up the pieces, figuratively, as Jesus withdrew from the crowd and they were left to sort out of the mess of His absence for the crowd. So, when evening came, they went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was dark and Jesus hadn't yet come to them. We're told that the...

A) sea became rough – because a strong wind was blowing. Another interesting detail is found in v.19, they had rowed 3 or 4 miles. How could Jesus be so reckless? So, these ones who have probably defended Jesus and are standing by Him are not only having to deal with a rough sea, but Jesus let them row 3 or 4 miles. What do they need in this moment? Something more than easy seas or less work? They need Jesus. And, He comes near. The verse continues... "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." Indeed, they would have been. This wasn't the type of thing that happens. But, Jesus answers their fear by speaking to them...

B) it is I; don't be afraid – Literally, it is I could be translated, "I Am." So, "I Am. Don't be afraid." In other words, Jesus is assuring them that He's with them. Then, they were glad to take Him into the boat and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going (another miracle). They had rowed a long time, were desperate, and Jesus had come

near, showing them again who He is. Immediately, they're at their destination. Notice, that Jesus was out for their good. He came near and was with them. This is contrasted with the crowds and their desire to make Him king, which caused Jesus to withdraw. Jesus has met the most desperate need of His followers by giving them Himself—by coming near.

In conclusion, today we've seen 3 ways in which Jesus meets great needs...

- I. Jesus meets the needs of people with **provision**. (1-14)
- II. Jesus meets the needs of the crowd by **withdrawing**. (15)
- III. Jesus meets the needs of His disciples by **coming near**. (16-21)

If you're an unbeliever here today, Jesus calls you to follow Him. He calls you on His terms, not yours. You may have all kinds of plans for God once you get Him in your corner, but that isn't what this relationship is about. Relating to God through Jesus means relating to Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Relating to Him as Savior means that you're not relying on any of your goodness. It doesn't matter if you can parent better than parents who let their kids crawl into gorilla pens or if you are a better person than those other thugs in your world, Jesus saves those who are sinners. Are you willing to own that? And, relating to Him as Lord means you aren't the boss, He is. So, while you may want God to do this or that, as Lord, He will do what's best. That's what qualifies Him as Lord. So, confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and

believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you'll be saved.

And, believer, there's many rich applications here for us, too. Jesus may choose to test us. Do you really believe and trust Him? Do you get who He is and what difference does this make in life? You see, many of us know who Jesus is on paper. But, let some circumstance of life happen and we call Him into question. What is being revealed through your life? That you know Him? And, do you have some selfish plan for God or Jesus? Like you want Him to do this, therefore, it must be so? Well, Jesus may very well withdraw. He's accomplishing the Father's will, not yours, so be careful to not confuse those. Again, look at Him, who He is, and what He's doing. Build there. Finally, Jesus does come near with His presence. When you believe in Him, He will never leave or forsake you. He comes near. It doesn't always mean your life will get ease, comfort, or you won't have to stop "rowing," but His own dear presence to cheer and to guide will bring you safely home. He will accomplish all He intends and meet our great need: more of Him. Today, then, let's trust Him and be a people who glorify and enjoy Him, forever.