

Objective: To help the listeners to see Jesus as One who can do more than that which is written in the Book  
Thesis Incredible things can happen in your life if you believe  
Subject: Faith  
Text: John 6:5-12

## ATTENTION

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### ***ILLUSTRATION:***

A man became lost in his travels and wandered into a bed of quicksand. Confucius saw the man's predicament and said, "It is evident that men should stay out of places such as this."

Next Buddha observed the situation and said, "Let that man's plight be a lesson to the rest of the world."

Then Mohammed came by and said to the sinking man, "Alas, it is the will of God."

Finally, Jesus appeared on the scene and said, "Take my hand brother, I will save you."

### ***APPLICATION:***

Jesus is the only religious leader who has a plan to rescue sinners.

He knows the plan; He understands the plan; and he will execute the plan.

And when it comes to the plan of salvation, we need to expand our horizon and shift our paradigm.

We need to think outside the box.

The disciples who walked with Jesus for over 3 years should have known what He was capable of doing.

In fact, on seven occasions Jesus performed miracles in the midst of His followers:

1. He changed water to wine - John 2: 1-12

2. He healed the Nobleman's Son-John 4: 43-54
3. He healed the paralytic Man-John-5: 1-9
4. He fed 5,000-John 6: 1-14
5. He walked on water-John 6: 15-21
6. He healed the blind man-John 9: 1-41
7. He Raised Lazarus-John 11: 1-44

They should have been able to think outside of the box and understand that God can speak into existence the non-existent.

## NEED

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The story of Jesus feeding the multitudes has been told and re-told and from it numerous lessons have been gleaned.

There are only a few stories that have made it into all four gospels. These include:

1. The birth of Christ
2. The death of Christ
3. The resurrection of Christ

Therefore if a story is chronicled in all four gospels it has to be significant.

The story of the feeding of the five thousand is found in all four gospels.

Why do all four gospels mention that Jesus took five loaves of bread and two fish and fed 5,000 people with them?

When you read the account in the book of John, the disciples were the ones in need of a paradigm shift.

They needed a new way of looking at Jesus.

They were familiar with his powerful teaching, his healing ministry.

But here, when 5,000 people are holding their stomachs, suddenly they run out of faith in whom they have been following.

The Bible says that Jesus saw this crowd and against the better judgment of His disciples decided they would feed them.

**John 6:5** When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, **Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?**

You will note that He directed His discourse to Phillip

Phillip was His first disciple.

He was there when He turned water into wine and therefore it might be expected that he should have said, “Lord, if thou wilt, it is easy for thee to feed them all.”

In addition Phillip, being a native of the area, knew the cost of such an endeavor.

Phillip’s response is quick, short and unbelieving.

His analytical mind gets cranking and spells out the message of the impossible.

**John 6:7** Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

**(Clear Word Bible)** Phillip said, “I don’t think that two hundred days’ wages could buy enough bread to feed all these people, even if we gave only a little to each person.”

Phillip was so focused on the crowd that he forgot in whose presence he was.

He was sadly stuck in the box.

And he says silently, “Jesus, you may be a great teacher, but now you really don’t understand what’s going on here.”

Like Phillip many of us are stuck in the box.

- We believe that God is great but not great enough to take away our cancer
- We know the power of God but we do not depend on him to supply our needs

Phillip had just returned from a mission trip healing the sick and casting out demons but rather than looking to God for a miracle, he looked at his wallet.

Philip is a lot like most of us. He is much better at defining the problem than solving it.

He is seeing the problem but he does not see the solution and so he establishes doubt.

You desire to come to Jesus but all you can see are problems.

1. Losing my friends
2. Losing my job because of the Sabbath
3. Afraid of what my parents would say and do

That's the side of the coin the devil supports.

He makes you see the impossible **but** Jesus says to us as He told His disciples after the young rich ruler walked away:

**Luke 18:27** ... The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

- With God your obstacles can become opportunities
- Your problems will become possibilities GO ON!!!

## SATISFACTION

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Then there is Andrew. He thinks outside the box.

He comes to Jesus with an idea:

**John 6:8** One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,  
**John 6:9** There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

He at least thinks of a remedy to the situation.

- He is not certain how it will work
- His suggestion might have been considered nonsensical

Just imagine Phillip's silent response, "How can five barley loaves and two small fish feed 5000 men! Andrew is just like his brother, Crazy!"

In fact after overhearing the conversation, he sought for a solution and in so doing found a lad with his lunch.

And when he did, Jesus said:

**John 6:10** ...Make the men sit down. .. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

If mention can be made of Phillip and Andrew, then one has to make mention of the lad.

Jesus didn't need the boy or what he had but he chose to involve the boy in the plan He had.

What the boy had was inadequate but he offered what he had.

**PUNCH:** All God asks us to do is to give Him what we have.

He never asks for more than that because He supplies all the rest.

**ILLUSTRATION:**

A speaker was addressing a large group, when he took a large piece of paper and made a black dot in the center of it with a marking pen. Then he held the paper up before the group and asked them what they saw. One person quickly replied, "I see a black mark." "Right," he replied. "What else do you see?" Complete silence prevailed. "Don't you see anything else?" he asked. A chorus of nos came from the audience. "I'm really surprised," the speaker commented. "You have completely overlooked the most important thing of all—the sheet of paper."

**APPLICATION**

When you place your life in God's hands, expect incredible things to happen, but don't concentrate so narrowly on the black dot that you overlook the piece of paper.

God can and will surprise you in the way he brings incredible blessings into your life.

- The boy could have kept what he had out of a sense of shame or inadequacy
- He could have remained quiet out of a sense of selfishness

But it appears from the narrative that the boy without hesitation stepped out and gave Jesus his lunch.

1. You do not have to be an adult to do exploits for Jesus
  2. You do not have to be a man to have faith
  3. You do not have to be a woman to have confidence in Jesus
- King Josiah was 10 years old when he induced Israel into a sacred revival
  - The little maid was little but she knew about the power of God
  - David was just a lad when he caused Goliath's demise in the camp of the Philistines

## VISUALIZATION

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Like everyone else the boy took his seat.

Maybe he had a seat near to the miracle-working Master.

The boy looks at his bread and fish and simultaneously he looks at Jesus.

And the Bible says:

**John 6:11** And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

More than 15,000 people were fed that day and at the end of the meal 12 baskets remained.

What is the meaning of this miracle to us living over 2000+ years later?

If all we think of Jesus is what is in our box, then that is exactly what we will get!

But tonight Jesus wants to break your box wide open.

He wants to burn your box in the fire of revelation and cause you to see the incredible things He can do for those who believe.

If He can feed over 5000 people, He can feed your family.

If He can feed over 5000 people, He can help you to pay your bills.

If He can feed over 5000 people, He can supply all your needs!

**Philippians 4:19** But my God **shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego think outside the box.

They said to the King of Babylon:

**Daniel 3:17** ". . . our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king."

This world would be a better place to live if we had abstract thinkers.

Not people like Phillip who had total doubt but people like Andrew, who even though he had a bit of doubt found a lad with lunch.

And people like the lad 'Rueben' who even though his lunch was meant for the poorest class, gave it to Jesus.

Maybe Phil Johnson and Bob Benson, Sr. read the story of the lad and his lunch when they wrote

*Are you tired of chasing pretty rainbows?  
Are you tired of spinning round and round?  
Wrap up all those shattered dreams of your life  
And at the feet of Jesus, lay them down.*

*Give them all, give them all, give them all to Jesus  
Shattered dreams, wounded hearts, and broken toils.  
Give them all, give them all, give them all to Jesus  
And He will turn your sorrows into joy.*

## ACTION

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The lad learns that there is no limitation on what God can do with what God has given him.

To him the sky is the limit to a limitless Savior.

And the lesson in this narrative is not in the lad's faith.

The lesson is in the Savior's ability to supply.

If your desire is for Jesus to supply all your needs you must come to Him with a fresh attitude.

- He can do for you what has never been done
  - He can accomplish what has never been accomplished
  - He can achieve what has never been achieved
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What is your desire tonight?

1. Do you believe that God can do the **impossible**? (Please Stand)
2. Will you allow him to do the **impossible** in your life by giving to Him what affects you? (Come to the altar – Sing 'Power in the Blood')
3. The God of the **impossible** is calling you for your blessing. The blessing comes when you accept his salvation. This Sabbath we are having a baptism for those whom Jesus have died for. If it is your decision to join with the others and be baptized come and join me on the platform. (Sing – Power in the blood)

## THOUGHT

*A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.*