

October 1, 2023

Feeding the Five Thousand, John 6:1-15

By Aaron Shamp

Introduction

- It's important that we name things correctly... John calls these miracles "signs."
 - Well, what do miracles prove? In a sense, nothing.
 - They say, prove to us that you are the messiah by making more bread. Jesus replies, I am the bread. Proof that Christianity is true is Jesus' life.
 - The miracles get us to look at Jesus.
- This miracle shows us that Jesus is the bread of life who satisfies our hearts.

Sober Fact

- Many people are skeptical of believing in this miracle. Why should we believe it?
 - We have eyewitness accounts. Are they trustworthy?
 - They read very authentic.
 - They bear qualities of being eyewitness testimony.
 - Luke 9:10-11, "And he took them and withdrew to a town called Bethsaida. When the crowds learned it, they followed him..."
 - John 12:21, "So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee..."
 - Remember that there was an entire community of people who continued to bear witness to what they had seen and heard.

Symbolic Truth

- Bread stands for essential food. John sees this story as standing for the necessity of coming to Christ for life.
 - Jesus' didn't just put food in people's hands but he gave his life for them.
- The Christian mission is not a socio-economic one. Jesus fulfills a deeper need than economy.

Super Training

- Jesus is a master trainer, expert coach. When he asks his questions about feeding the masses he is testing his disciples. "How will you meet their needs?"
 - Jesus shows them that their resources are inadequate. But it becomes one of the great lessons of the NT.
- The only way that the world can be fed is by yielding our resources to Christ. You must unreservedly surrender your life to Christ.