

Series: Life to the Full; Sermon: **Five Barley Loaves and Two Fish**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **February 4, 2018**

Bible text explored: John 6:1–15

¹After 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?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One 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?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus 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. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!”

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

Review and application:

1. What does John say (v. 2) initially caused huge crowds to search for and surround Jesus?
2. A popular Jewish expectation was that when the Messiah came he would renew the sending of Manna (see *Exodus 16:35* and *John 6:31*). How does John's mentioning that this “sign” occurred just before the Passover celebration (v. 4), shed light on what second attraction the assembled crowd might infer from it?
3. Jesus asked his disciples how they might try to meet the immediate material needs of the crowd (vv. 5-7). How did his question reveal the inadequacy of human attempts to find basic satisfaction apart from him?

What are some “more is better” goals for finding satisfaction in our society?

Why do they ultimately (v. 4) lead to disasters?

Jesus now demonstrated how every follower of his can be fully satisfied by understanding who he is.

4. While John does nothing to explain how the miracle was performed, what was the available resource (vv. 8-9) that Jesus chose to use?
5. Jesus brought clarity to a chaotic mass of humanity. What *are* we told about how he did this . . .
 - . . . by creating order (v. 10)?
 - . . . by acknowledging the source (v. 11)?
 - . . . by preventing waste (vv. 12-13)?
6. What (v. 14) was the immediate conclusion of those who had been fed? (See *Deut. 18:15*.)
7. What was Jesus' response (v. 15) to the people's misunderstanding of the nature of his kingdom? (See also *Mark 6:45-46*.)
8. Have you found that entrusting your powers and resources to Jesus, letting him do the multiplication, has brought you freedom?