



## Sermon Outline & Notes | Feb 11, 2018 | Pastor Shane Patrick

### *The Fourth Sign | John 6:1–15*

#### **Sermon Outline & Notes**

#### **Primary Passage**

**John 6:1–15 (ESV)** – <sup>1</sup> After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup> And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. <sup>3</sup> Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. <sup>5</sup> 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?” <sup>6</sup> He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” <sup>8</sup> One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!” <sup>15</sup> 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.

#### **Big Idea / Central Proposition**

The works of Jesus’ always move God’s people from scarcity to surplus.

#### **Selected Sermon Notes & Outline**

##### **1) Context leading up to Chapter 6**

###### a) Jewish Objectors to Jesus’ works

- i) John 5:16 — 16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.
- ii) John 5:18 — 18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

###### b) Jesus calls four witnesses to validate his claims of divinity

- i) Jesus calls John the Baptist (5:32–35)
- ii) Jesus calls his own signs & miracles (5:36)
- iii) Jesus calls God the Father (5:37–38)

iv) Jesus calls the Holy Scriptures (5:39–47)

## 2) God's "upper story" in John 6

### a) A definition:

- i) The story being told *from above* as God sees it.
- ii) The story of God, of who he is, and who we are in him.
- iii) The storyline that connects all Scripture: creation, fall, redemption, & eternal restoration.

### b) The sings and claims of Jesus divinity in John

#### i) **Chapter 1**

(1) Claims of Jesus' divinity:

- (a) Jesus is the Word, and the Word is God v. 1
- (b) Jesus created all that has been created vs. 3, 10
- (c) Jesus is the Son of God, and the Son is God v. 18
- (d) Jesus takes away the sin v. 29
- (e) Jesus is Messiah and Christ v. 41
- (f) Jesus is Kind of Israel (King of God's people) v. 49

#### ii) **Chapter 2**

- (1) Claims of Jesus' divinity: V.19, Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
- (2) Signs of Jesus' divinity: Turning *no wine* into a *vast abundance* of the best wine.

#### iii) **Chapter 3**

- (1) Claims of Jesus' divinity:
  - (a) Whoever believes in me has eternal life (vs. 15, 16, 18)
  - (b) Whoever does not believe in me is condemned (v. 18)

#### iv) **Chapter 4**

- (1) Claims of Jesus' divinity: Tells Samaritan woman that he can bring her eternal life, and that he is the Messiah and Christ who was to come.
- (2) Signs of Jesus' divinity: Healing of royal official's nearly dead son.

#### v) **Chapter 5**

- (1) Claims of Jesus' divinity: Jesus proclaims to have power to raise the dead & give life to whomever he chooses (vs. 21-22).
- (2) Signs of Jesus' divinity: Jesus heals the thirty-eight-years-disabled man.

#### vi) **Chapter 6:1-15**

- (1) Signs of Jesus' divinity: Abundantly feeding the 5000, from five small loaves, and two small fish, with surplus to spare!

### c) Do you believe?

- i) Considering all the signs and claims of Jesus saying he's God, and that salvation is available in him, do you believe?
- ii) Other supporting passages from Scripture:
  - (1) **John 20:30–31** — 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
  - (2) **John 10:9–10** — 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
  - (3) **2 Corinthians 9:8** — 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.
  - (4) **Romans 8:32** — 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?
  - (5) **John 3:16 (CSB)** — 16 “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

### 3) God's “lower story” in John 6

#### a) A Definition:

- i) God's “upper story” truths always overflow into God's “lower story” wisdom for living rightly as his disciples.
- ii) God's “lower story” always gives us help and aid in, “walking in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called” (Ephesians 4:1).

#### b) Culture's lie:

- i) You don't deserve adversity, testing, and trials. You don't deserve challenges, and difficulty in life.
- ii) You don't deserve hunger, hardship, suffering, or inconvenience

#### c) What the Bible teaches:

- i) Testing and trials in our lives are grounded in God's love, and intended for our ultimate and eternal good.
  - (1) **1 Peter 4:12–13, 19** — 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.
  - (2) **James 1:2–4, 12** — 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.
  - (3) **Romans 5:3–5** — 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been

poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

d) Applying God's "lower story" in John 6

- i) TRUTH: God's desire is to use our testing, trials, and troubles to curate our character, and mature us in him.
- ii) TRUTH: God's desire is to use our adversities and sufferings to grow: endurance, perseverance, steadfastness, hope, and completeness in faith.
- iii) GOAL: That we would begin to see our testing, troubles, & trials as God sees them.
- iv) GOAL: We would see in them God's desire to stretch our faith—for his glory, and our good, and with our eternity in mind.

v) Supporting Quote:

*Christ is pleased to try our faith and patience in this manner, yet from heaven he beholds our wants, and is careful to relieve them, as far as is necessary for our welfare; and when assistance is not immediately granted, it is done for the best reason, [even] though that reason [for now] is concealed from us. — John Calvin*

vi) Supporting Quote:

*How surprising was this failure in the faith of Philip. One would have supposed that after all the disciples had witnessed ...their faith [would be] strong and their hearts calm and confident. Ah— [but] should we? Would not our own God-dishonoring unbelief check such expectations? Have we not discovered how weak our faith is! How obtuse our understanding! earthly our minds and hearts! In vain does the Lord look within us sometimes for even a ray of that faith which glorifies Him. Do we [not], like Philip and Andrew look [first to] OUR resources? Or do our first thoughts turn to the Lord Jesus, who [is always faithful]? O, dear reader, have we learned to spread each difficulty, as it comes along, before God? Have we formed the habit of instinctively turning to Him? Here, right here, is our test of faith. — A.W. Pink*

- vii) Key truth in responding to life's tests, trials, and troubles: Always, always turn to Jesus. Whether he allows the trial to continue for a time (for our good and in keeping with his will) or not (cf. see Calvin quote above).

- (1) Proverbs 3:5–6 — 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
- (2) Matthew 11:28–30 — 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

#### 4) Summary / Concluding Thoughts

a) In the "upper story" story and the "lower story of John 6:1–15 we see the truth that:

- i) **God's Upper Story:** the signs and claims of Jesus, validating his divinity exist that we might believe, and find eternal life in him (cf. John 20:30–31).
- ii) **God's Lower Story:** With our ultimate good and eternity in mind, the tests, trials, sufferings, and troubles we face in life are allowed and/or ordained that we might be complete in faith and hope, and that we might learn to, in every way, in all of life, seek our

provision in him.

iii) In our witnessing of the works of Jesus, we're always moved from a life & mindset of scarcity to a life of surplus & true abundance (as he would define it), in him.

## 5) Discussion Questions

- a) The signs, miracles, and claims of Jesus were done by him in order to illicit a response. What is your response to signs and claims of Jesus' divinity that we considered together today?
- b) Christians, in what ways do you view/live life with a 'scarcity' mindset, instead of living out of the surplus and abundance available to you in Christ? How is God asking you to think, believe, and respond differently, in all of life, in light of the abundance you have in Jesus?
- c) Relatedly, what circumstances in life cause you to forget the surplus of 'every good thing' (everything that truly matters) you have in Jesus? Discuss this with your group, and consider how you might pray for and encourage one another in this. [Consider: Ps. 23:1-6, 34:10, 84:11; 2 Cor. 4:17-18, Rom. 8:18-30; 1 Pet. 1:3-9]

## 6) Prayer Points

- a) Pray that each one of us would grow in living out of the abundance and surplus we have in Jesus, and that God would protect us from the enemy's lies to the contrary.
- b) Pray that God would help us to remember and trust that trials and suffering in this life are not contrary to the abundant life he promises us (Jn. 10:9-10).
- c) Pray that those who don't yet believe in Jesus as Lord & Savior, for their eyes to be opened to salvation and the abundance of other promises available in him.

## 7) Benediction

John 10:9-10 — 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.