

Who Is This Man...Who Provides For Us?

Key Verses: Mark 6:30-44

Talk Summary:

John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin has been beheaded and Jesus and the disciple want some time to rest and eat together as friends. They get in the boat and sail away to Bethsaida, but the crowds are there when they land.

Jesus was filled with compassion and began teaching the assembled crowd.

The people wanted a new Moses. A deliverer for their times. and they wanted to make him king by force (John 6:15). Revolutionaries in the Middle East would gather men together in large crowds and give them weapons, training then inspire them to action.

Jesus challenges the zealot model of liberation as His path to freedom is more comprehensive. It's not the liberation of one people group at one point in history from one source of oppression (the Roman empire). His freedom is for all people at each point in history, from all powers of darkness and from our failings, fears and shame. He free us to know God and life in all its fullness.

The miracles of Jesus aren't glorified party tricks. They reveal God's character that each of us can get to know as we choose to follow Jesus. This reveals God as our provider.

Jesus provides for us - that's his compassion and Jesus partners with us - that our discipleship and trust.

"Miracles happen when we become aware of our need, they happen in the face of impossibilities but they do require our participation" Rich Nathan

The food came from a child, one of the "uncounted" as only men were counted. We see that things and people who don't count can be used for miracles that do count. Life is always presenting us moments where we see our lack. That can grow our trust. Jesus knows what comes next. We might not. John 6:5 Phillips test.

We all have hunger that is not satisfied by bread alone. A hunger for meaning, purpose and authentic relationship with Jesus. "Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)

A few optional questions for reflection:

- -Can you recall a moment when you experienced Jesus as your provider?
- -When have you chosen to partner with Jesus in a moment of trust? What happened?
- -The disciples used what they had and did what He said. In what ways is Jesus inviting us to follow their example?
- -Jesus said 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" How does living the Big Three help us practically follow Jesus every day?

Group Discussion Questions

Welcome

If you don't eat together as a small group then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

• How is 'Read and Listen' going? What has God been speaking to you about this week? (Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)

Word

We want our thoughts and lives to be shaped by what God says in the Bible. If most of your group weren't there on a Sunday base the discussion on the main passage rather than the talk.

- What from this week's talk/Bible passage stood out to you, and/or you found challenging? Why?
- Follow Jesus: What does this passage teach me about God?
- Live life to the full: What does this passage teach me about myself?
- Make a difference: What is God inviting you to do or change as a result of what we have discussed?
 (You can give everyone a minute or so in silence to write it down) Spend some time praying for one another.

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?