

Title: Gods Gift - John 6 1-15

Read:

¹⁻⁴After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (some call it Tiberias). A huge crowd followed him, attracted by the miracles they had seen him do among the sick. When he got to the other side, he climbed a hill and sat down, surrounded by his disciples. It was nearly time for the Feast of Passover, kept annually by the Jews. ⁵⁻⁶When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people?" He said this to stretch Philip's faith. He already knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered, "Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece." ⁸⁻⁹One of the disciples—it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter—said, "There's a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this." ¹⁰⁻¹¹Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted. ¹²⁻¹³When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted." They went to work and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said, "This is the Prophet for sure, God's Prophet right here in Galilee!" Jesus saw that in their enthusiasm, they were about to grab him and make him king, so he slipped off and went back up the mountain to be by himself.

Think:

Your Lord is pretty impressive. He provides for the needs of a massive crowd of people, just by using the packed lunch from a small lad. That's pretty radical in anyone's book. In the same way today God provides us with everything we need. Yes, I said need not want. He could round us all up and keep us like pets, in a little cage, where everyday he feeds us and lets us worship him. After all, this God of ours created the entire universe and everything in it. But He doesn't. Firstly he gives us the ability to choose ourselves, whether we worship him or not. Then he says, I will provide for all your needs. He could say, I will provide for everything you want, but he doesn't. Now, I am thinking, that God providing everything I wanted would be pretty cool. I want the latest play station, the latest Xbox, the latest Wii. Not to mention a fast car, aeroplane, helicopter and the best MP3 player going. But I think maybe, we can begin to see the problem here. When I get what I want, rather than what I need, I have a tendency to become a little greedy. Anyway, if my effort was not involved in providing what I need, and God just gave me everything I wanted, I would become his pet again. But no, our God provides you and me, with the ability to have what we need to live our lives to the full.

Pray:

Father, thank you for giving me all that I need to provide for myself. Thanks for my intelligence, thank you for my abilities; thank you for those who help me. Amen.

Action:

If during this dev, you sat there thinking things like "I'm not good at this" or "I'm not good at that, God hasn't giving me any abilities." Then you are wrong. Take the time to write out ten things God made you good at. And make a promise that you won't stop until you have written down ten things. Bye.