

## John 6:1-14

## “The Power of Jesus” Part 5

Experience, indeed, is the best teacher. But the experience does not have to be your own. To ignore the lessons gained from the experiences of others is foolishness. To tell yourself that that may have happened to you, but it won't happen to me is self-deception. Furthermore, to ignore the lessons of your own experiences is downright stupidity. It is tantamount to being insane, doing the same thing and expecting different outcomes. I don't say these things to insult anyone, for I have been the victim of self-deception and stupidity, on the brink of insanity. Why do we ignore or forget so easily the lessons of past experiences? Doing so results in missed opportunities and avoidable hardships. With that said, let's turn our attention to our text. In normal fashion, three things this morning.

**First, our experience with Jesus should lead us to believe that with him all things are possible. V1-8** “After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is *the Sea* of Tiberias.<sup>2</sup> Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.<sup>3</sup> And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.<sup>4</sup> Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus lifted up *His* eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”<sup>6</sup> But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.” On a scale of 0 to 10, how big of a problem was this? From our human perspective it was an impossible problem. Given zero experience with Jesus' power, his disciples' responses would have been understandable, but they had significant first-hand experience. Rather than respond with that

experience in mind they allow the impossibility of the situation to lead them to look for a way out instead of embracing the opportunity. Look at Matt's account of this miracle in **Matt 14:15-17**, "<sup>15</sup> Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.'" <sup>16</sup> But Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.'" <sup>17</sup> They said to him, 'We have only five loaves here and two fish.'" If I have learned anything in my experience as a pastor, I've learned that the kneejerk reaction of individuals, of congregations, and leadership, alike, is to consider first the impossibility of the situation rather than the power of God/Jesus. Is there anything too hard for God? This is the question this test begs of them to answer. May we be facing similar tests of our own? And have we determined the situation is beyond God's/Jesus' capabilities? The miracles of Jesus prove not only that he is the promised Messiah but also, that nothing is impossible for him. We must believe this for if we do not how could we ever believe in resurrection?

**Genesis 18:13-14** "<sup>13</sup> The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

**Jeremiah 32:17** "<sup>17</sup> 'Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

**Luke 1:34-37** "<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, 'How will this be, since I am a virgin?'' <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of

God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.”

**Mark 10:25-27** “<sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>26</sup> And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”

**Second, we should trust God with all we have, whether a little or a lot. V7-12** “<sup>7</sup> Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.” <sup>8</sup> One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, <sup>9</sup> “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many? <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. <sup>11</sup> And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed *them* to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup> So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.” I can’t help but wonder what lead this lad to give all he had to Jesus? What was he thinking? What was his mindset? **What will be our mindset in life or ministry? Will it be feast or famine? Will we say we do not have enough and cling to what we have, or will we, like this boy, turn loose what we have into the hands of God/Jesus, believing God will supply? If we seek to hold on to what we have, we will ultimately lose everything. If we give it over to God for God’s work God will multiply it.** This is a universal biblical truth. Sow and you

will reap a crop. Nothing grows that is not first planted. Jesus' power calls us to trust God with all we have.

**Matt 16:24-27** “<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.”

**Matt 25:24-30** “<sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

**2 Cor 9:7-15** “<sup>7</sup>Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given

to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” <sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup> By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, <sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

**Finally, Jesus is able to supply more than enough. V13-14**

“<sup>13</sup> Therefore they gathered *them* up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup> Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.” Why does God supply more than enough? It is not so that we can fill our coffers, sit back and relax. He does so, so that we can both address our needs and the needs of others. This principal is at the core of ministry. Jesus is able to supply more than enough because he has power of quantity. Listen, the blessing of God on a little is more than a lot without God’s blessing.

**1 Kings 17:10-15** “<sup>10</sup> So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup> And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup> And she

said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die." <sup>13</sup> And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup> For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'" <sup>15</sup> And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days."

Church, the power of Jesus. Let it move us to trust God in all situation with all that we have. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.