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John 6:1-15

Can God Do Anything?

1. You confessed that this pericope read in your presence is in fact the Gospel of our Lord. Is that true? Do you also confess the miracle within it as recorded is true? Or, do we walk past it as we would the cemetery at night, swiftly and whistling as we go? Does it make us uncomfortable to confess in this modern day that 5000 people were fed with 5 little loaves of bread? Can this be true? It presents to us a huge question: Can God do anything?
2. **Blessing:** Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen
3. I am anxious to preach this miracle to you today for it is full of richness of nutrition for our faith but first I would like to challenge you a bit, “stirring up your pure minds by way of remembrance” with the question...
 1. Can God do anything? No. We like to glibly pass over this question. It is the kind of thing asked and answered in Sunday school when we are but wee lads and lasses. Still no. “Whadjya mean, “NO”? The substitute preacher is a heathen...or at very least awfully liberal.
 2. Please, hear me out before passing final judgment.
 3. The omnipotence of God is one of the things we lean upon most strongly. We believe He **can and will** help us. It is an anchor in our storms. It inspires awe, nurtures trust, and is in the Scriptures from beginning to end- Gen 18:14 *is anything too hard for the Lord?* Jer 32:17 *Nothing is too hard for You*, Rev 19:6 *The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.*
 4. It is every bit our hope and comfort in “*the valley of the shadow of death*”...but we must always tread carefully with our words, for impossibilities do exist
 5. Our wonderful and powerful Creator God, whom we acknowledge to have created all things *ex nihilo* cannot be considered as limited because of logically impossible acts. E.G.
 1. He cannot make a rock so heavy He cannot lift it...
 2. He cannot make a square circle or an oblong cube...
 3. He cannot abolish the past. There were World Wars, we have scars,
 4. He cannot deny himself 2 Tim 2:13, cannot lie, be unjust, be ‘not good’
 5. Let us look to our text for some direction, for our Lord can do anything consistent with His divine character. Psa 115:3 *does all that He pleases*

IV. Verse 5 *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?"*

1. The people were to be His guests and His disciples were to feed them.
2. *Where are we to buy*, i.e. to obtain *bread* “in exchange for payment”?
3. That is the only way to get bread, right? Oh, I guess we could steal it...or grow our ingredients and bake it ourselves... or it could be given to us as a gift...but normally we make a transaction and buy it. Consider..

4. Jesus posed this question as a test. Verse 6 *He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.*
5. In his mind, Philip ‘hit the wall’. Philip was likely the provider or procurer for the group as Judas was the treasurer. Philip, was from the area, likely knew the country better than the others. The question is akin to ‘where is the nearest Kroger in these here parts?’
6. But the big question behind the question is, “Have you been paying attention to all the miracles done previous and what do you really think of them?”
7. Verse 7- *Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."*
 1. Philip, in his anxiety, went into ‘accountant mode’, did some rapid and careful calculation. All the money we have between us all and a little more wouldn’t buy them all a nibble that would starve a field mouse...”
 2. You can almost see all the disciples digging in their pockets on the sly...okay how we gonna come up with \$34? (Average wage = \$0.17 per day.)
 3. They had all forgotten the water into wine at Cana. Much like we forget that God has His own ways in our emergencies.

H. Andrew fared only slightly better. He found a small boy who was willing to share his lunch with Jesus that his mom had packed for him, a small boy.

1. 5 barley loaves and 2 small fishes... rough food and not much of it... barley was worth about 1/3 that of wheat. The fishes were of unknown species but definitely of the dinky variety and just for the purpose to aid deglutition, the mere act of swallowing, like we would use a bit of butter to soften dry bread.
2. He added in doleful hopelessness, “*but what are they for so many?*”
3. How often, we, repeat this question of sorts. A problem comes. We look at only our own resources and not that of Omnipotent God.

V. The Miracle...and it was 1. By definition a miracle is “a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency”. Wow. That sets red flags up all over the place for our reason. We like things explained...

1. But Jesus assumed charge and became the governor of the feast.
2. He had them all sit down on the verdant carpet provided by God prepared long before they needed it. (always remember God plans ahead) e.g. Zacheus and the tree..Now 5000+ people are reclining and looking to Jesus.

Before the entire vast assembly which was now seated in anxious expectation, Jesus next took the loaves in His hands and gave thanks; He dedicated them to God by His prayer. And He, at the same time, proved Himself the almighty God and Lord, for His blessing upon the bread caused the miracle.

C. Please note: The few loaves did not grow into great stacks, but they multiplied under His almighty touch during the distribution. No matter how often the disciples returned to the Lord for further supplies, there was always enough on hand. They obtained not only of the bread all that they wished for, but they were also given of the fishes, as much as everyone desired.

D. All the people were fully satisfied. Big and small. Man, woman, and child. They had all they could eat.

E. Would you eat the bread? Surely some were of a skeptical turn in the crowd. "I'm not eating that! I do not understand from whence it came nor how it can be." Did some slip some in their pockets to put under the microscope back at the lab on Monday morning? Did the sober looks on the face of the disciples discourage some? Did some of the disciples tear up? They knew, they handled, this was supernatural bread from God, like manna in OT.

F. As they picked up 12 large baskets, the kind you carry on your back, full of leftovers, what did they think? They knew "the fact". The fact was, at Christ's word, There was bread enough and to spare! 5K people ate from 5 little loaves.

VI. Verse 14 *When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"* Moses!

1. They said they believed but they really dinna. Presupposition blocked understanding.
2. Sometimes we Christians we get a pretty hazy concept of Christ as well. Our reason and doubts get in our way. Must face it squarely...
3. IS Christ who He says He is or not? Is this miracle of bread true or not? Well, it is pretty hard to believe...c'mon, come clean...it is, isn't it?
4. Actually, it depends upon your viewpoint. Within the confines of this sacred hall we confess God as almighty. We confess Christ as God, that the simple Nazarene is the Creator and preserver of all things. That He gives food and sustenance generously to all creatures.
5. We say that the hand of the Lord is not shortened at all even to this very hour.
6. We confess that Christ died and rose again and because of dying on the cross His blood and suffering are effective in being our substitute for all our sins. That His vicarious atonement is adequate to qualify me and you to stand in the Presence of God.

VII. Pastor, where are you headed with this? You have had us all over...

1. Dear ones, I am taking you to a place of great comfort. This has been my intent all along. That we might step aside from the ordinary, hum-drum, the dry speculation, the cold calculation, and the spiritual malaise that comes with it.
2. Today I am not presenting to your minds such trivial questions as "what happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable object?" These thoughts are far below us today. For we look unto God Almighty and hear His promises and confess they are true, in my life and in yours.
3. We come to the Table of the Lord. There, His almighty Hands will once again put miraculous bread before His expectant hearers. His Blood will be for us and we will be forgiven of our sins.
4. He will feed us with His True Body and Blood. Christ will be with us. How can this be?!? I know not how and care not how, for no one knows 'how', but I care most deeply that I, a poor miserable sinner, may come and dine, and be satisfied in His forgiveness.
5. That I may be preserved in this precious treasure of Christ's Sacrament unto life everlasting by the very promise of God Almighty.
6. **Votum:** And now the peace of God which surpasses all human comprehension keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen