



RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

THE WEEKLY BRICK

July 26, 2009.

As you come to him, the living Stone-rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-you also, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 2:4-5

Faith Typology: the fab 4 July 26, 2009

John 6:1-21

The sixth chapter of John reveals Jesus to be the Provision for every human and material need. Jesus first demonstrated the truth, then He began to preach and teach it. He showed that He was...

- concerned with every need in life (even a missed meal, [John 6:1-15](#)).
- concerned with every overpowering need (the calming of a storm, [John 6:16-21](#)).

No matter how small the need or how stormy the problem, Jesus is the Provision, the Bread of Life, and the power to meet our every need. He can provide a single meal (internal) and He can calm the most stormy problem (external).

1. Trying to meet human needs by any other source than Christ is doomed to failure and will not satisfy.

2. Faith and trust are essential for God to meet human need. However, there are several levels of faith and trust. This is the lesson man you must learn in order to see that Christ is the Bread of Life, the Provision for human need.

LESSON 1: THERE IS A PESSIMISTIC FAITH (v.7).

1. A pessimistic faith sees money and human resources, and that is all.
2. A pessimistic faith does not see God nor the power of God. It sees the problem.

LESSON 2: THERE IS AN OPTIMISTIC BUT QUESTIONING FAITH (v.8-9).

An optimistic, questioning faith loves the Lord and is committed to the Lord. BUT, this faith looks at the need and then looks at the *meager resources*, both how little and how poor the quality of the resources are, and it questions God. It questions instead of believing God to take care of the problem

LESSON 3: THERE IS A POSITIVE, UNSWERVING FAITH (v.10-13).

LESSON 4: THERE IS A MATERIALISTIC PROFESSION (v.14-15).

This is Jesus as a vending machine. Isn't he supposed to do stuff for me? The people professed Jesus to be the Messiah, but they were thinking of an earthly, materialistic king, a Messiah who could meet both their personal and community or national needs.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Monday, July 27th Read John 6:1-71

[John 6](#) reveals Jesus to be the Provision for every human and material need. Jesus first demonstrated the truth, then He began to preach and teach it. He showed that He was...

- concerned with every need in life (even a missed meal, [John 6:1-15](#)).
- concerned with every overpowering need (the calming of a storm, [John 6:16-21](#)).

No matter how small the need or how stormy the problem, Jesus is the Provision, the Bread of Life, and the power to meet our every need. He can provide a single meal and He can calm the most stormy problem.

Read [John 6:1-15](#). Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life, the Provision for human and material needs.

Note two significant facts.

1. First, trying to meet human needs by any other source than Christ is doomed to failure and will not satisfy.
2. Second, faith and trust are essential for God to meet human need. However, there are several levels of faith and trust. This is the lesson we must learn in order to see that Christ is the Bread of Life, the Provision for human need.

1. The setting (v.1-6).
2. Lesson 1: there is a pessimistic faith (v.7).
3. Lesson 2: there is an optimistic but questioning faith (v.8-9).
4. Lesson 3: there is a positive, unswerving faith (v.10-13).
5. Lesson 4: there is a materialistic profession (v.14-15).

Read John 6:1-6. The setting here is descriptive. Jesus crossed over the sea or lake of Galilee. The lake was about thirteen miles long and eight miles wide. The feverish, surging crowds saw where He was heading, so they rushed around the lake by foot. The journey was about nine miles.

Note the words “followed” (*ēkolouthei*) and “saw” or beheld (*etheōroun*). The two words mean that the people *had been following* Jesus for a long time and *kept on following Him, beholding the ministry* of His miracles upon people (the Greek imperfect active tense--you knew that already though, didn't you?).

Jesus was tired and weary from the pressure of facing the crowd day after day. He sought refuge across the lake on the top of some unknown mountain. He needed time to be alone with God and with His disciples. It was the Passover season, a time when thousands of pilgrims flooded Jerusalem and the surrounding suburbs.

The picture is that of Jesus sitting on the mountainside, lifting up His eyes from resting upon His knees and seeing “a great company” of thousands streaming across the fields and up the mountain toward Him. The “great company” included both those who had followed Him around the lake and pilgrims who were caught up in the excitement of hearing about Jesus, the proclaimed Messiah.

Jesus used the occasion to demonstrate two concerns.

1. His concern for meeting the needs of people, even the most minute need of missing a meal. There is no need that Jesus does not want to meet. The multitude that had been following Him for days had just made a nine mile journey, having rushed (“followed,” *eklouthei*) to keep from losing Him. They were not only hungry and apparently out of food, but they were in mountainous country, an area without any possibility of purchasing food. The point is this: the people were so desperate to find and keep up with Him that they just forgot about eating. As usual, Jesus was filled with compassion for those who so desperately sought Him out. He used the occasion to teach the great lesson: He will meet even the most minute need of people. He asked His disciples, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”

2. His concern to strengthen the disciples. He knew what He was going to do, but He used the occasion to test and strengthen the disciples, teaching them a tremendous lesson on faith. They were as we are, full of needs; and their greatest need was the same as ours, to grow in faith.

Tuesday, July 28th *Read John 6:1-7*

You can have a pessimistic faith. This is seen in Philip. Philip needed to see his faith for what it was—pessimistic. Philip was from Bethsaida, so he was the natural disciple to question Jesus ([John 1:44](#)). The disciples either had two hundred denarii in their treasury or else Philip was just pulling a figure out of the air stressing that even such a large amount would not feed the crowd.

1. A pessimistic faith sees money and human resources, and that is all. A pessimistic faith...

- sees only the available resources. It stresses the hopelessness.
- stresses the impossibility of the situation.
- despairs of such meager resources.
- is swamped by the hopelessness of an answer.

2. A pessimistic faith does not see God nor the power of God. A pessimistic faith *professes* God and *professes* Christ to be the Son of God. It professes the belief that Christ has the power to meet the needs of man. It even witnesses the miraculous working of Christ in other instances. But when a problem arises, the immediate response of a pessimistic faith is to see the problem, not the power of God. It does not see the opportunity for the power of God to be demonstrated in conquering the problem and bearing a strong testimony to His name. In the crises of the problem, the power of God seems forgotten.

a. A pessimistic faith **forgets God's glorious power in the past.**

b. A pessimistic faith **fails to think of God's power.** It's mind is on earthly things, not on spiritual things. It is carnal, not spiritual.

c. A pessimistic faith **feels that the problem is too big for God's power** or either too little for God to be interested in.

- d. A pessimistic faith **fears that God's power will fail** and the person's faith will be weakened. Therefore, the person is safer to pray weakly, "Lord, if thou will, handle this problem."
- e. A pessimistic faith **fails to see God's care and love**, interest and concern over every little thing that happens to a person.
- f. A pessimistic faith gives **thanks and praise to God for what one has** (health, money, things); **but fails to trust God for the miraculous** (healing and multiplication of resources so that one can better serve and help others).
- g. A pessimistic faith **looks to others for help instead of looking to God and depending upon Him alone**.
- h. A pessimistic faith **fails to see that God is glorified when He provides and meets the need**.

Wednesday, July 29th *Read John 6:8-9*

There is an optimistic, but *questioning* faith. This is seen in Andrew. Note three things.

1. An optimistic, questioning faith **loves the Lord and is committed to the Lord**. Andrew saw Christ's concern, so he went among the crowd and searched for food. He found and gathered all the resources he could.
2. An optimistic, questioning faith **lays what it can find before the Lord**. No matter how little the resources or how poor the quality, it is all laid before the Lord. The barley bread was the bread of the poor, the very cheapest bread that could be made or bought. It was anything but a delicacy. The two fish were even "small." Note the simple, optimistic faith of Andrew. He had searched and could find nothing but five small barley cakes and two small fish, but he offered what he had found—the *boy* and his *food*—to the Lord.

3. An optimistic, questioning faith does question: "What are they among so many?" The questioning faith often deteriorates into...

- complaining about the problem.
- being anxious about meager resources.
- grumbling over the small provision.
- griping over the poor quality.

A questioning faith looks at the need and then looks at the *meager resources*, both how little and how poor the quality of the resources are, and it questions God. It questions instead of believing God to take care of the problem. The need may be what it is in this event, the need for food; or it may be the need for health, money, deliverance, and a myriad of other human needs. Whatever the need may be, the fundamental need is for one to learn to trust Christ and not to question and doubt His love and care, wisdom and power.

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Luke 12:29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it.

Thursday, July 30th *Read John 6:10-13*

You can have a positive, unswerving faith. This is seen in Christ. Christ Himself demonstrated for His disciples the kind of strong faith they were to have in God.

1. **Note Jesus' faith.**

- a. **Jesus took what He had and gave thanks to God for what He had.** He had only a meager supply of bread. In fact, He could hold all He had in the palm of His hand. But note...
 - He did not stand there looking at the meagerness of what He had, questioning, being gripped with despair and hopelessness, wondering how the need was going to be met.
 - He looked up and gave thanks to God. The small supply and poor quality did not matter. What mattered was that He had something; there was some provision. A gift, a sacrifice, a resource—small though it was—had been given and laid at His feet for Him to use as He willed. So He took it, being ever so appreciative, and lifted it up to God, giving thanks to God and trusting God to meet the need of the hour. Note how positive and unswerving the act of Christ was. He knew beyond any question that God would meet the need and multiply the resources.

- b. **Jesus gave what He had, and note: all He could do was distribute what was in His hands and trust God.** This He did. He simply gave what He had and God did the rest.

Think about this: All you can do is give what you have, what you hold in your hands. You can do that, and you're expected to do that. If we give in this way, God does the rest. The need will be met. (*Note: the needs of the whole world can be met only if we will give what we hold.*) So many are holding and grasping after more and more, that the world is reeling in the desperation of hunger and disease, war and death, sin and evil, doomed to live apart from God eternally. What do you do?

- c. Jesus used others to help Him in meeting the need.** Note that He gave to the disciples and the disciples gave to the people. His disciples were essential to the task. They were the ones made responsible for feeding the people.
- ⇒ Christ received the offering of the resources, meager as they were.
 - ⇒ Christ trusted God to multiply the resources.
 - ⇒ Christ then gave the supply to the disciples, not to consume, but for the purpose of distributing. This is critical to note.
 - ⇒ The disciples distributed the food and fed the people. They were a vital part of the Lord's plan.

2. Note that God met the need *because of the positive, unswerving faith of Jesus.* God met the people's need and filled them. In fact, and this is extremely important, He *more* than met their need. There was provision *left over*. How much? Twelve baskets full. Why twelve baskets? There were twelve disciples, twelve servants who had so obediently and trustingly helped Christ. Each servant had a supply that would last him for days. God always provides abundantly for His true servants ([Phil. 4:19](#)). Note: not a morsel was to be wasted. Every ounce of provision was to be used at some future date. While you are giving what you have, you must trust the power and provision of God.

Luke 1:37 For nothing is impossible with God."
Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

Friday, July 31st Read John 6:10-13

There is a materialistic profession of Jesus. The people professed Jesus to be the Messiah, but they were thinking of an earthly, materialistic king, a Messiah who could meet both their personal and community or national needs.

Jesus had fed and healed them. He had done what everyone wanted, met their need for health and food. Therefore, they wanted to set Him up as the King of their lives. They did not want to ever hunger or be sick again, not as long as they lived. They saw in Jesus the possibility of an earthly, human Messiah, One who could provide...

- food for their hunger.
- healing for their sicknesses.
- deliverance from their trials.
- comfort for their sorrows.
- plenty for their wants.
- peace through their disturbances.
- victory over their enemies.

Jesus, of course, can help any person through anything. But the problem with the crowd was their desire for earthly and worldly satisfaction. They thought in terms of the physical and material, not the spiritual. Even when Christ meets physical and material needs, the physical and material are only temporary. They pass away. The Lord's concern is primarily spiritual—spiritual strength and spiritual blessings, the strength and blessings that last forever. This is the reason most men forsake Christ. **He demands the...**

- **denial of self.**

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

- **separation from the world.**

John 6:26 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." ¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

1 John 2:15-16 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world.

