

• **THE MAIN POINT:** Will God take care of me? The answer is: Yes, he will. He will feed us when we are hungry. He will heal our sicknesses. He will save us from danger. He will restore relationships. He will raise us from the dead and give life and joy to our souls.

6:1-7 Hungry people: After healing the crippled man at the pool of Bethesda and a long teaching on how the day will come when, like the crippled man, the dead will stand up in the day of resurrection, Jesus crosses over the _____ of _____. Great crowds of people _____ him _____ he went. Not because He was their God, Savior and Master, but because they saw his _____ of healing. However, the signs and wonders were and are most often done to attract God's lost children so that the Master can talk to them and draw them to Himself. So Jesus sits on a hillside with his _____ Him. It was nearly time for the annual _____ celebration where the lamb was slain for the sins of the people. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as "*The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*" (John 1:29) Jesus intentionally uses the situation before him to teach on Himself as the Bread of Life for soul-dead people. A great _____ of people (who were hungry) had come around the lake and were _____ the hill, looking for the Master. It was late in the day and the people had not thought about bringing food. So Jesus turns to _____ and asks him, "*Philip, _____ can we _____ bread to _____ all these people? He was testing Philip, for he already _____ what he was going to do.*" Philip replied, "*It would take a small _____ to feed them.*"

PHILIP'S TEST: The Lord tests us to cause us to turn to Him, ask, and see that He is the living God in our midst who loves us. If we were not tested, we might never rise above the worldly life that ends in death and meaninglessness. The test is whether we will ask Him, believe in His will and ability to deliver us, or shrug ours shoulders, turn our back on prayer and manage the best we can ourselves and walk away from Him.

SMALL FORTUNE: The original language has "200 Denarii." A denarii was a day's wage for a working man. So it was about what a man would earn in 8 months. It was a "small" fortune to the Lord who owns the cattle on a 1,000 hills. Nothing is too big or too hard for Him. And nothing is impossible for us who believe in Him. (Matthew 17:20)

6:8-15 Andrew to the rescue. He brought a little boy to Jesus who was willing to share his supper -- _____ barley loaves (buns) and _____ fish (sardines). Andrew, like Phillip, still did not have confidence that Jesus could do anything. So he says, "*But what _____ is that with this _____ crowd?*" Jesus says, "Tell everyone to _____." Everyone was _____ men plus women and children—a group of perhaps 15,000-20,000 people. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave _____ to _____ (said grace) and passed them out to the people. He did the same with the _____. Everyone ate and was _____. Jesus told them to gather up the _____ so nothing would be _____. There were _____ baskets left over. • This miracle caused the crowd to consider that he was the _____ they had been

_____ (the Messiah). Jesus saw that the crowd was ready to take him by _____ and make him their _____, so that he could take care of them always. So he went higher into the hills _____ alone.

LOAVES AND FISH: Everything given to Jesus is multiplied and given back to us. It is the principle of sowing and reaping. Sowing involves trust, that which is buried or given up will be multiplied. "*For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.*"

(2 Corinthians 9:8-9) This little boy was walking in cheerful faith. He gave up his lunch but didn't go hungry. In fact, everyone was blessed by his faith. If we are to have a happy life, we must be generous and helpful whenever it is called for by the circumstances before us. When goodness passes through our hands and heart, it makes us feel very good.

BARLEY: Barley is the first grain harvested. This is applied to Jesus who is the first fruits of the resurrection.

GIVE THANKS: The Greek word is EUCHARISTEO. "Eu" means good. Charisto/Charisma means "gift." Eleven times it is used to speak of exalted thanks and praise to Father God for his good gifts. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, he prayed, "*Father, THANK YOU for hearing me. You always hear me... Then Jesus shouted, 'Lazarus, come forth!'*" (John 11:41-42) • Like us, Jesus lived by what was in the Father's hand. "*All eyes look to you for help; you give them their food as they need it. When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.*" Psalm 145:15-16

• 27 times eucharisto is used to speak of the Lord's Supper—expressing the exalted joy, thanksgiving, and love for the Father for the gift of the living bread from heaven—the beloved Son. "*I am the living bread that came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; this bread is my flesh, offered so the world may live.*" 6:51

KING -- GIVER OR GIFT: Jesus is "King of kings and Lord of lords." One of the themes of this chapter is that people are forced to choose between the gifts and the Giver of gifts. The natural or worldly person wants food, security, comfort, the things money can buy, self-indulgence. As long as Jesus takes care of their needs without asking for a commitment, they are hot on His heels. They follow the miracles. They want to make Him a king to take care of them. • A Christian is one who is amazed to discover that Jesus is the priceless treasure to him or her, that he loves Jesus and enjoys and seeks prayer, the

company of Christians, and Sunday worship. John Bunyan said of our Master, "I have loved to hear my Lord spoken of; and where I have seen the print of his shoe in the earth, there I have coveted to set my foot too. His name has been to me as the civet-box (perfume bottle); yea sweeter than all perfumes And his countenance I have most desired than they that have most desired the light of the sun."

6:15-21 That evening the disciples went down to the shore of the sea to wait for Jesus. When he didn't come, they set off across the sea back to _____. But when they were about three or four miles out, suddenly a _____ came up and they were in danger of being swamped and drowning. Suddenly they saw Jesus _____ on the _____ toward the boat and they were _____. But He called out to them, "I am _____. Don't be _____!" He got in the boat and _____ they were on shore.

Isaiah 43:1-3 "But now, O Israel (O Church), the Lord who created you says: "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

What Does This Scripture Say To You? _____