

**Loaves & Fishes – Part 1**  
**Trusting Jesus When It's Not Enough – John 6:1-13**  
Crosspoint – Dave Spooner – April 19, 2026

**Introduction**

- Have you ever been in a situation where you were looking at something in front of you and thinking, “There’s just no way this is enough”? Maybe it was financial. Maybe it was time. Maybe it was energy. Maybe it was something God was calling you into, and all you could see was the gap between what was needed and what you had.
- And the more you thought about it, the more obvious it became: this isn’t going to work, this doesn’t add up, this is not enough. If you’ve ever been there, then you already understand the tension of today’s passage.
- Because what we’re about to see is not just a story about bread and fish. It’s a story about that moment, when what you have in your hands feels completely insufficient for what is in front of you. And that’s exactly where Jesus meets His disciples.
- As we walk through this Loaves & Fishes series, we’re going to hear some stories, not just from Scripture, but from our own church family. Stories of how God has provided. Stories of how people have trusted Him. Stories where someone had just a little, and God did something more than expected. Because those stories matter. They build faith. They remind us that what we are talking about is not just theory or theology; it’s real, lived out, and it matters.
- In the Christian life, so often, choosing to live generously is ultimately a reflection of who we are following and what we are trusting for our comfort, our security, and our well-being. Scripture tells us, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1). But if we’re honest, one of the greatest rivals to that truth is money. Maybe that’s part of why the phrase “In God we trust” is printed on our currency, because we need the reminder. At some point, this moves from being someone else’s story to being ours. From what they did... to what we will do. And that’s exactly where this passage in John 6 meets us.
- This is the only miracle during Jesus’s earthly ministry that is recorded in all four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which tells us something right away. God wants us to see this. He wants us to understand it. This is not a small detail in the life of Jesus; this is a defining moment. This morning, we’re going to look at it through John’s account. Turn in your Bibles to John 6, page 916 in the pew Bible.

**John 6:1-4 NIV**

**Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Festival was near.**

- John tells us that a large crowd is following Jesus, not because they fully understand Him, but because they have seen what He can do. They have seen the signs, they have seen the healings, they have seen His power. Some of them are there because they are desperate, hoping to be healed, hoping for relief, hoping that maybe Jesus can do something for them that no one else can.
- Others are perhaps curious. They’ve heard the stories, and they want to see it for themselves. Some are there because everyone else is going. There’s a crowd, there’s energy, there’s something happening, and they don’t want to miss it. If we’re honest, that same mix of

motivations still exists today. People come around Jesus for all kinds of reasons: need, curiosity, questions, and even uncertainty.

- Jesus knows the people have been with Him for a while. He knows they are tired. He knows they are hungry. He knows they have real, physical needs. And in this moment, He chooses to take that need and turn it into an opportunity to display who He is, and to reveal what it means to truly trust Him.

## **A Problem We Cannot Solve**

### **John 6:5-7**

**When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.**

**7 Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”**

- This is where the story turns. The crowd has a need, but Jesus turns His attention to the disciples, and what they are about to face is not just a problem; it is the kind of problem they cannot solve on their own.
- When He looks up and sees the crowd coming toward Him, He asks Philip a question: “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” Then John lets us in on something Philip didn’t know in the moment; Jesus already had in mind what He was going to do. This wasn’t a request for information. It was a test.
- Now that word matters. Because when we hear the word “test,” we often think of pass or fail, success or failure, approval or disappointment. But that’s not how Jesus tests. Jesus does not test to find out what we *know*. He tests to reveal what we *trust* and who *we are*. There are times when Jesus allows us to face something that stretches us, something that exposes our limits, not because He is trying to trip us up, but because He wants to show us what we are made of and, even more, to turn our attention back to Him.
- Counting the cost is not wrong. It’s natural. It’s wise. Philip’s response isn’t foolish; it’s realistic. He looks at the situation, he does the math, and he tells the truth: “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite.” In other words, even if we had the money, it still wouldn’t be enough. This is not possible.
- But there are moments, like this one, when God allows us to see the gap between what is needed and what we have, because He is about to show us something about Himself. He is about to display His goodness, His provision, His power in a way that we would not see if everything already added up. These are not just moments of need; they are moments of formation. This is how God builds faith. This is how He teaches us to trust Him.
- And this is what we do. We calculate. We measure. We evaluate based on what we can see and what we can control. Philip isn’t wrong; his math is right. The problem is that his conclusion leaves Jesus out of the equation.
- Now before we move on too quickly, we need to see this clearly, because this is not just Philip’s response. This is ours as well. We do the same thing. We look at what’s in front of us, and we begin asking the same kinds of questions: What can I afford? What makes sense? What’s realistic? What’s manageable? We begin to define our response based on our resources. When we do that, we often arrive at the same place as Philip. This isn’t enough. I don’t have enough. We don’t have enough. Not enough time. Not enough energy. Not enough margin. Not enough resources.

- Here's what we need to understand. This is often where Jesus begins His work, not when everything adds up, but when it doesn't, not when we feel sufficient, but when we feel the gap between what is needed and what we have. Because in those moments, Jesus is not just addressing the problem in front of us; He is revealing something deeper within us. He is showing us what we really trust, and at the same time, He is revealing something about Himself, His power, His goodness, and His glory in ways we would not see otherwise.
- Moments like this, whether it's a church-wide initiative, a step of obedience, or any place where God is inviting us to trust Him, are not *accidents*; they are *invitations*. Invitations to see more clearly, to trust more deeply, and to experience His faithfulness in ways we otherwise would not.
- As long as the focus stays on what we lack, the conclusion will always be the same: it's not enough. But Jesus is about to show them, and us, that we've been asking the wrong question.

## **An Offering That Seems Too Small**

### **John 6:8-9 NIV**

**Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"**

- The story doesn't end with what they cannot do, because in the middle of this impossibility, someone steps forward.
- Andrew speaks up and brings a boy to Jesus. And what he brings is almost surprising in how small it is, five small barley loaves and two small fish. This isn't impressive. This isn't a solution. This is a simple, ordinary meal, the kind of food that would have belonged to someone with very little. Then Andrew says what everyone is thinking: "But how far will they go among so many?"
- That question is honest. It's reasonable. It's exactly how we think. Because this is what it feels like when we are asked to trust God with what we have. We look at it and say, "This isn't much. This won't make a difference. What is this compared to the need?"
- And yet, this is the turning point of the entire story. *Because the miracle does not begin with abundance. It begins with availability.* It begins when someone is willing to take what they have, no matter how small it seems, and place it into the hands of Jesus.
- Don't miss this. We don't even know the boy's name. He's not a disciple. He's not a leader. He's not someone with influence or recognition. He simply has something in his hands, and he is willing to give it. And in that moment, what looks insignificant becomes central to what Jesus is about to do. This is how the kingdom of God works. *God is not looking for what is impressive. He is looking for what is surrendered.*
- The issue is never really the size of the gift. The issue is the contents of the heart. This is why Jesus points to the widow in Mark 12. Two small coins, hardly anything in comparison, and yet Jesus says she gave more than all the others. Why? Because she trusted Him completely.
- The same is true here. The miracle did not begin when Jesus multiplied the bread. *It began when the boy released it.* This is where it comes back to us.
- We often think that what we have is too small to matter. Too little to make a difference. Too insignificant to be part of something meaningful. But what if the very thing we are tempted to hold back is the very thing Jesus wants to use?
- What if the question is not, "Is this enough?" but "Am I willing to trust Him with it?" Because generosity, at its core, is not about how much we have. It is about what we believe about God. It is an act of trust. It is a declaration that says, "Jesus, I believe You can do more with what I

place in Your hands than I can do by holding onto it.” And that’s where everything begins to change.

## What Happens in Jesus’ Hands

### John 6:10-13 NIV

**Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.**

**12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.**

- This is where everything changes. Jesus takes what has been offered, five small loaves and two fish. Nothing impressive. Nothing sufficient. And yet, in His hands, something begins to happen.
- John tells us that Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were seated. And as He does, *what was not enough becomes more than enough*. Everyone eats. Everyone is satisfied. And then, after it’s all over, the disciples gather what is left. There are twelve baskets full, more at the end than at the beginning.
- Don’t miss what’s happening here. *The miracle is not in the size of the gift; the miracle is in the power of the Savior*. Jesus is not *limited by what we bring*. He works *through what we bring*. He takes what is surrendered, He blesses it, and He multiplies it in ways we could never accomplish on our own. There’s a simple way to say it: we bring what we have, and Jesus multiplies it. That’s the pattern. He receives it, He gives thanks for it, He multiplies it, and then the disciples distribute it.
- That’s important, because Jesus’s role is in *production, and our role is in distribution*. He does what only He can do, but He invites us to participate in it. The disciples are not the *source* of the miracle, but they are *part of it*. They are the ones placing the bread into the hands of the people. They get a front-row seat to what happens when what is insufficient is placed into the hands of the one who is all-sufficient.
- This is where it comes back to us. The miracle was not the boy’s bread; the miracle was what Jesus did with *surrendered* bread. The same is true for us. *This is not ultimately about meeting a need; it is about trusting a Savior*. It is about placing what we have into His hands and believing that *He is enough*.
- At the end of the day, this initiative and our lives are not about money; they are about discipleship. Do we trust Him? Do we believe He sees? Do we believe He provides? Do we believe He is able to take what we offer and use it for something far beyond what we can see?
- When we hold onto what we have, we limit it to what we can do with it. But when we place it into His hands, it becomes part of what *He* is doing. That’s the invitation, not to give because we have plenty, not to give because it makes sense on paper, but to trust Him, to place what we have into His hands and believe that He is able. Because when we do, we don’t just watch the miracle; we become part of it and get to see what He can do.

## Conclusion

- Let me bring this back to where we started. We all know what it feels like to look at something in front of us and think, “This isn’t enough.” Not enough to make a difference, not enough to meet the need, not enough to matter. And if we’re honest, that’s where many of us live. We see the gap between what is needed and what we have, and our instinct is to step back, to hold on, to wait until it makes more sense.
- But what this passage shows us is that the story doesn’t begin with *enough*. It begins with *surrender*. It begins when someone is willing to say, “This may not be much, but I’m going to trust Jesus with it.” And when that happens, everything changes. Because the question was never, “Is this enough?” The real question is, “What will Jesus do with what I place in His hands?”
- That’s the invitation for us. Not pressure, not guilt, not comparison, just invitation. What has God placed in your hands? What has He entrusted to you, your time, your resources, your abilities, your opportunities? Will you trust Him with it? Giving to Christ is not just an act of faith and trust, it is also an act of worship.
- One day, we will see it clearly. We will see how God used simple acts of trust, small offerings of obedience, surrendered resources placed into His hands, and how He multiplied them for His glory in ways we could never have imagined.
- So this is our moment, not to figure everything out, not to make it all add up, but to trust Him. To take what He has placed in our hands and to place it back into His. We bring what we have, and Jesus multiplies it for His purposes. Let us ask Him what He wants us to do, not just today, nor for this initiative, but in every day, in events both big and small, as we continue to walk forward with Him.

***Our prayer team is available to pray with you after the service, near the “prayer” sign at the front of the sanctuary, and in the prayer room next to the offices. Also, you can send your prayer request to [prayer@crosspointrockford.com](mailto:prayer@crosspointrockford.com)***

## Questions for Growth Groups

1. When have you faced a situation where you felt like, “This isn’t enough”? How did you respond in that moment?
2. In John 6, Jesus tests Philip. What do you think Jesus was revealing about Philip, and what do moments like that tend to reveal about us?
3. Philip’s math was accurate, but incomplete. Where in your life are you tempted to rely only on what “adds up” instead of what God might do?
4. The boy’s offering seemed small and insignificant. Why do you think it became so central to the miracle? What keeps us from offering what we have to Jesus?
5. The sermon emphasized that generosity is not about the amount but about trust. How does that challenge or reshape the way you think about giving?
6. What stood out to you about the idea that “Jesus is in production, and we are in distribution”? How does that change the way you see your role in what God is doing?
7. What has God placed in your hands right now: time, resources, relationships, opportunities? What would it look like for you to trust Jesus with that this week and in your life moving forward?