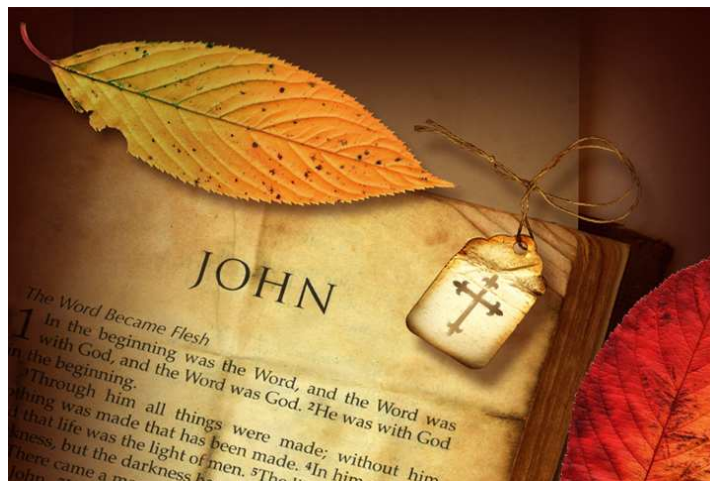


Fall 2010 Sermon Series:

The Gospel of John

Week #6

Discussion Guide



October 16/17, 2010

“Limiting Jesus”

Pastor Neal Nybo
John 6:5-13

<http://www.rbcpc.org/about-us/sermons/>

Next week: October 23/24
“Gracious People” Pastor Bruce Humphrey
1 Kings 19:11-13, John 7:1-10

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Scripture References

Read and reflect on the following scripture:

Jeremiah 29:11-14

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Notes:

John 6:5-13

When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

Notes:

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Discussion Guide

Scripture

1. Read the Jeremiah 29:11-14 scripture. What is God's promise?
2. What does God ask the people to do?
3. Why is the people's participation important?
4. Read the John 6:5-13 scripture. What does Jesus see when he looks out at the crowd?
5. What is Jesus trying to teach Philip to see?
6. Why does Jesus ask the disciples to participate in this miracle?
7. What aspect of the divine nature of Jesus does this scripture reveal?

Sermon

Key Words: ***testing – distribution – limiting – grooming***

“Jesus has some big ideas, some soul searching, mind bending, game changing ideas for all of us, and for the world. Probably not one of them is humanly possible to accomplish but we are used to figuring things out the best way we know how, with the human intuition and grit that has gotten us this far in the world. So we do what Philip did. We limit ourselves to what we can figure out and limit what we are willing to believe Jesus can do.” Neal Nybo

8. How is Philip like an executive pastor for Jesus? How is he not?
9. Why does Jesus test Philip?
10. What limits does Philip immediately place on the situation?
11. What part of the lesson does Andrew already know? What part does Andrew not know? What limitations does Andrew express?
12. If Jesus already knew what He was going to do, why does he bother engaging Philip and Andrew in the process?
13. What is Jesus grooming his disciples for?
14. What is the real miracle in this story? (Hint: think about transformation)

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Life Applications

Personal:

1. Who are you most like in this story? Philip? Andrew? The boy? The people in the crowd? Why?
2. What problem(s) in your life seem to have no solutions?
3. Do you find it difficult to trust God to meet your needs? Why?
4. In what way is Jesus asking you to participate *with Him* in ministry?

Small Group:

1. Share a time when God provided for your needs in an unusual or surprising way.
2. How did that experience strengthen your faith?
3. How might that experience be grooming you for something bigger?
4. How does learning about the faith of other believers inspire us to trust God?

Prayer:

Jesus, time and time again you prove your faithfulness by continually providing for our needs. We pray that we might open our eyes to the possibilities, and believe beyond the limitations of this world, that you are grooming us for bigger things according to your plan, not ours.



Further resources for study of the Gospel of John:
John – Life Change Series, a NAVPRESS Bible Study.
Book of John, Life Lessons with Max Lucado
Many other resources are available in the RBCPC Library – check it out!