

# No More Fish Sandwiches for You!

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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Today is Round-up Sunday! What a blessing to see so many friends and guests here this morning.

We are, of course, serving lunch right after the main service message today and invite each and every one of you to stay and enjoy an old fashioned pot luck dinner on the grounds with us.

If you are here today without previous knowledge of the dinner festivities, that makes you God's special guests and means that you are especially invited to stay and enjoy the fellowship. Lunch is on us today and there will be plenty for everyone.

Today in God's Word we are going to look at the account of another special day of worship when the Church served lunch to all the guests that came.

## John 6:1-17

1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is *the sea of Tiberias*.

- 2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.
- 3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.
- 4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.
- 5 When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, **Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?**
- 6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.
- 7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.
- 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,
- 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?
- 10 And Jesus said, **Make the men sit down.** Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.
- 11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.
- 12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, **Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.**

- 13 Therefore they gathered *them* together,  
and filled twelve baskets with the fragments  
of the five barley loaves, which remained  
over and above unto them that had eaten.
- 14 Then those men, when they had seen the  
miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a  
truth that prophet that should come into the  
world.
- 15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they  
would come and take him by force, to make  
him a king, he departed again into a  
mountain himself alone.
- 16 And when even was *now* come, his  
disciples went down unto the sea,
- 17 And entered into a ship, and went over the  
sea toward Capernaum. And it was now  
dark, and Jesus was not come to them.

Wow, 5,000! That's a lot of fish sandwiches!  
These fish were likely one of the Tilapia family  
like what you have probably eaten at Captain  
D's or at Red Lobster. These same species are  
a tasty, highly sustainable lot still caught by the  
thousands today right out of the Sea of Galilee  
and taken straight to market. We ate them  
numerous times when we were in Israel.

These loaves of common barley bread are still  
sold on street corners across Israel every day.

The disciples finally got to Capernaum after a  
raging storm and the experience of Jesus  
walking on the water. The next day the crowd  
found them.

### John 6:24-27

- 24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.
- 25 And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?
- 26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.
- 27 Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

These followers had missed the point completely. Every miracle Jesus performed, both then and still today, was an object lesson to show us His true purpose. These people were there for the fish sandwiches!

In other places; especially third world countries, we could serve a meal like we are serving today and there would be standing room only; and we definitely would run out of food.

Here in America, especially here in Texas, we are so blessed and fat and satisfied, we don't show up just for ordinary fish sandwiches.

We've all got our own brand of sandwich we will show up for.

It might be the sandwich of the good fellowship or the sandwich of the social interaction.

It could be the sandwich of the good feelings we get or the sandwich of blessings that God's Word promises.

It could be the sandwich of the music or of being on stage.

Jesus tried to tell them; but they still didn't get it.

#### **John 6:35-36**

**35** And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**

**36** But I said unto you, That ye also have seen **me**, (They saw the miracles, they ate the fish sandwiches, they heard Him preach; they should have known who and why He was.) **and** (still you) **believe not.**

Jesus explained it and explained it and explained it:

#### **John 6:47-48**

**47** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on **me** hath everlasting life.

**48** **I am** that bread of life.

He said to them in vs. 51:

#### **John 6:51-58**

51 **I am** the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

(That really set them off.)

52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat?

53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.

At this point, Jesus has not only told them, “No more fish sandwiches for you”; now He has offended them!

### **John 6:59-66**

59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

- 60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it?
- 61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, *Doth this offend you?*
- 62 *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?
- A handful of them actually would see this; it is recorded in Acts Chapter One.
- 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.
- 64 *But there are some of you that believe not.* For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.
- 65 And he said, *Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.*
- 66 From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

The religious world is in a quandary about this saying but this metaphor is not a hard saying to us.

Jesus is the Word of God made flesh. There is only one thing that will give you eternal life; that is after you receive the Word of God that you place your trust in Jesus to save you from your sins.

It is Jesus as the Word of God that we consume and He indeed gives us life!

**1Peter 1:23** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

Sadly, not all disciples of Jesus are real believers.

**John 6:64** But there are some of you that believe not...

Jesus offended them when **He basically told them, “You are here for you and not for me!”**

And then they proved Him right by walking away.

Is there is anything that can make you walk away if you are really here for Jesus? We all know the answer to that question.

You will discover that Jesus proves His disciples; He did this with Philip in:

**John 6:6** And this he said to prove him:

Jesus is going to prove you, too. At some point He is going to take away your fish sandwich and He is going to allow you to be offended, if not to actually offend you Himself.

When that time comes, you will then know whether you are here for yourself or whether you are here for Jesus.



Just a few days ago the world's most famous woman preacher in the world's largest church perhaps accidentally stated this truth: speaking for her congregation, she said, "You're not doing it for God, really. You're doing it for yourself."

There is one thing I know of that sinners, truth and Jesus all three have in common; they are all three timeless, they do not change.

**I. Back here in the New Testament, about two thousand years ago, those who were there for Jesus stayed and the rest walked away.**

*A. There were thousands who ate the fish sandwiches.*

1. **John 6:10** And Jesus said, **Make the men sit down.** Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.
2. This doesn't even take into account the women and kids.
3. On another occasion, four thousand ate the Lord's fish sandwiches as well.
4. **Matthew 15:36-38**  
 36 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and broke *them*, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken *meat* that was left seven baskets full.

38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

*B. There were thousands who witnessed the miracles of healing and other miracles at the hands of Jesus.*

1. **Matthew 4:24** And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

2. **Matthew 12:15** But when Jesus knew *it*, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;

3. **This went on for about three years!**

4. Untold thousands were healed and witnessed these miracles; they followed Jesus everywhere He went.

5. Yet on the day after the resurrection when Jesus had finally accomplished that for which He came, out of all those thousands, there are only 120 left walking with Jesus.

6. **Acts1:15**

And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about a hundred and twenty,)

**II. Today, just like back then, those who are here for Jesus stay and the rest find some reason to justify walking away.**

*A. "But you don't understand, I got offended!"*

1. So what? Every Christian will get offended sooner or later, and usually often.
2. How many times in an average week do you think that offensive things are said and done to Lisa and me?
3. Hey, if you think we've offended you, you ought to get around Jesus more; He is the Master offender!
4. Read your Bible; Jesus has offended more people than any man that has ever walked on the planet!
5. As for me and my house, offend away! Take your best shot! We're here for Jesus, we're not going anywhere!
6. Every time I turn my cheek, I've got another one on the other side; we are just going to love you anyway whether you like it or not...and I've endured nothing compared to what my Savior endured for me!

B. *“But y’all took away my fish sandwich.”*

1. “I’m just not getting fed.”
2. If you are here for Jesus, maybe it’s time for you to start feeding someone else.
3. **Hebrews 5:12** For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.
4. “But I’m not getting to do things the way I want to here.”
5. That’s why it’s called **submission** and each and every one of us is commanded to practice it toward those in authority over us.
6. If you are here for Jesus, maybe you ought to ask Him what He wants you to do: by the way, it’s almost never what you had in mind; ask any preacher about that.
7. Someone said to me recently, “I’m tired of seeing members of my Church family leave; it’s not supposed to be this way.”
8. You’re right, it’s not supposed to be this way and we need to do everything we can to prevent it; however it **has** always been this way and **will** always be this way until Jesus comes!

9. It is exactly the same today as it was when Jesus was standing here on Earth preaching the gospel Himself.

However:

**III. Tomorrow, when the trumpet sounds; this time we who are here for Jesus are going away!**

*A. That day all the rest are going to have it all to themselves!*

**1. 1Thessalonians 4:14-17**

- 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
- 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.
- 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
- 17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

2. We are going away alright, but we won't be walking away!

*B. Then, there will be a great dividing of those claiming to be the disciples of Jesus.*

1. Few there are today who will stand up and vocally proclaim that they belong to Jesus.

2. But there is coming a day soon when everybody will want to claim knowing Jesus; only then it's going to be a little late.

3. **Matthew 7:21-23**

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

4. His will is clear:

**1John 3:23** And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

5. **Matthew 25:31-34**

31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:

- 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.
- 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
6. **Matthew 25:41** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

### **In Conclusion:**

**Back there in Capernaum, all those disciples walked away and the persecution had not even started yet!**

**There is a very good possibility that before Jesus comes; it is going to get very rough even here for real Christians.**

**It is already that way in many parts of the world. In many countries, you would be flogged and beheaded for what you are doing right now.**

**If it is so easy to walk away now, how are you going to stand when that day comes?**

**My question to you this morning is the same one Jesus asked the twelve when all those others walked away offended:**

**John 6:67** Then said Jesus unto the twelve,  
Will ye also go away?

**I love Peter's answer:**

**John 6:68-69**

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

**Peter voiced two things in his answer:**

**He said "We are sure who Jesus is!" Are you sure who Jesus is this morning?**

**And, "We believe..." that Greek word for "believe" means "to put in trust with."**

**Have you trusted Jesus to save you from your sins?**

**Do you realize that all true Christians started out as unbelieving disciples?**

**John 6:44-45**

45 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

**You have been taught; have you listened? Have you learned? Are you ready to come to Jesus?**