

I. Our Witness for Christ

Together, we closed out chapter five and looked at our witness for Christ. We know now that our witness is much more than just talking to somebody or passing out tracts. It really encompasses our whole lifestyle, 24/7, being a witness for Christ in all that we do, not just in what we say. This applies to our personal life, what we see in our kids, our families, our marriage, the workplace, our relationship with our friends, and even our relationship with our enemies.

I showed you the word "conversation," and how in the Bible it is correctly used not as just something that you say, but always matches up to how we live. Through that, it is our witness to the world. I gave you the great verse that everybody ought to have memorized or marked in your Bible, Romans 14:7, that no man lives to himself and no man dies to himself. Somebody is always watching our lives.

Then I showed you the key word, and we looked at it and really built the message around this: the word "unto." I defined that word for you in Romans 1:1, where Paul says, "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel." We need to be separated from the world, but what really needs to happen once that occurs is we get separated unto the gospel. That becomes our lifestyle as a servant with a calling to be a witness unto the gospel, like John, unto God's truth. Of course, we saw in John 5:33 that the reason for all this is that men may get saved and find the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior.

I showed you our witness is in two aspects. We looked at the burning light, which is a picture of our witness to unsaved people, talking about the judgment of God. Then there is a shining light, what we are to saved people, to help guide them and bring them through. In either case, we are to let our light shine.

II. Introduction to John Chapter Six

With that in mind, I want to move into chapter six today. If you are newly saved, or you have been saved but are just getting plugged into the Bible here in our church, or listening through YouTube, this is a great lesson for you. This is going to help you understand some things about not only what God wants to do in your life, but how He is going to do it. For us older Christians, it is always a good reminder, as the price of learning is repetition. It is always a good reminder, especially if you are working with people, to keep these things in the back of your mind.

You will note that as we come down through chapter six, this is the third Passover. I showed you when we started John that the Bible is laid out, John is laid out, around four Passovers. This is the beginning of the third one. So this puts us about two and a half years into His public ministry. This story will be found in all four Gospels: Matthew 14, Mark 6, and Luke 9. When you see something like that, the first thing you want to remember is that there is an emphasis here that God is trying to make.

One of the rules of Bible study, and I have given them to you, about 20 or 25 simple basic rules, is never to overemphasize something that God does not. But at the same time, never to underemphasize something that God emphasizes. This comes from just spending time in the Bible and learning how God does things and what He does. Many of God's people waste so much time in their Christian life and in the Bible because they major on the minors. They do not really get what is truly important. They spend a lot of time wasting time on things that are not important and miss the big things.

In John chapter six, we find Christ portrayed as the Bread of Life. You probably want to put that at the head of the chapter if you do not have it already. In John chapter four, we saw Him portrayed as the Water of Life. Another thing about chapter six, and this probably will not get anybody saved, is that it is the longest chapter of all the New Testament books of the Bible. It runs 71 verses. So it is a lengthy chapter because there is a lot in it that we want to learn. The importance of this story in this chapter is something that every child of God should know and understand, especially if you are beginning to get into the Bible. Us older Christians, we have a tendency to forget some things that were early on, so it is always a good reminder, taking us back to where it all begins.

You are going to notice that in this great chapter, this great miracle that He is about to do in chapter six, it follows the big rejection of the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees of chapter five. You want to just keep a mental note of those things. You will see that in spite of the devil and the Bible scholars of the day trying to corrupt the people and to do away with Christ and everything that He is doing, you are going to find that, as always, the common man knew who He was and accepted Him as their Messiah, and they followed Him.

III. The Remnant

You always want to know this and never forget the fact that I do not care what all the mainstream of Christianity does, how they depart from the Bible, how they make their Sunday services a three-ring circus, whatever they do, the real bottom line of Christianity will always be the common man who is the remnant, who just stays with the Book and does what the Word of God says in spite of all the foolishness that is going on out there today. That is illustrated when you see what is really going on here with the nation of Israel, and yet the common man with a common Bible finding out who He is. It will be the same way today. God will always be found working in that remnant. That is one of the greatest single things you will ever learn about God.

Back in Noah's day, there were probably eight billion people on the planet, and yet only eight made it. God did it through a remnant. You are going to find that when God establishes Israel in the millennium, He is going to do it through a remnant. You are going to find in Ezra and Nehemiah, when God brought the nation of Israel, certain of them, back from the captivity to put them back in the land, it was a remnant. You are going to find it today in church history, right before the second coming of Christ, just like the first coming of Christ, God will be doing His work through the remnant.

IV. Reading of John 6:1-14

With that in mind, let us read our text today and follow along. Let us do this: follow along and see what you can pick out of this as I read it. Think if you can think where I am going to go with things. That is always a good thing. Some people just kind of veg out while you are reading it, and I do not necessarily want you to do that. I want you to read along with me and see, especially you people who are trying to learn the Bible, just see what you can pick out of there. Jot it down and then see how we line up here as we come through it.

So let us read John chapter six, verses one through fourteen.

John 6:1

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

John 6:2

And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

John 6:3

And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.

John 6:4

And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

John 6:5

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?

John 6:6

And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

John 6:7

Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

John 6:8

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

John 6:9

There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

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.

John 6:11

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.

John 6:12

When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

John 6:13

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.

John 6:14

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.

Let us pray. Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We thank You, Father, for the folks that are here today, the folks that are on YouTube. We just pray Your blessings upon everything that we try to do today. We love You. We thank You, Father, for You loving us and giving us the Word of God. May we learn today. We have so many young men and young ladies, moms and dads, couples in our church that are beginning to grasp the Bible and learn the Bible. May this great lesson today, this great story, help illustrate in a clearer way how You want to do that with them. Help me to teach it clearly today, plainly. Help me, Father, to make these people understand through Your Holy Spirit. Forgive us where we have failed You, Lord. Let us under the blood today that we may be found faithful in giving out the Word of God. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. For His sake we ask it. Amen.

V. Applications of the Feeding of the 5,000

Now, what do you see here? This is a great story. This is the story that most people know of the feeding of the 5,000. There are certain stories in the Bible that most people, even unsaved people, know, even if they do not know where to find them in the Bible. Everybody knows the story of Adam and Eve; they may not know it is in the beginning of the Bible. Everybody knows the story of Genesis. Everybody knows the story of David and Goliath, even though they cannot maybe find it. You are going to find it through the natural course of things and time and people. Everybody understands or knows something about the event called the feeding of the 5,000.

As always, for us, as we look at this, let us start with this: there will be three applications to this that you want to get down if you do not have it.

➤ Historically: It is yet another miracle.

- Doctrinally: This will be a picture of Christ feeding the nation of Israel in the wilderness during the Tribulation period.
- Inspirationally: This is the element that God will use to teach you the Bible.

VI. Essentials for Learning the Bible

When you begin to get into your Bible, you need a couple of things to be successful.

1. You need to have the right Bible. I am talking about a King James 1611 Authorized Version. When I was preaching at the Methodist place last week, here is a case where you guys can learn from this because you have got to see around your surroundings and you have got to be smarter than the problems around you that are going to pop up. They were setting up chairs and tables and putting out Bibles, and they were putting out NIVs. I was going to talk about and preach Psalms 1. I was going to walk another council on Godly, that thing there, which reads nothing like that in the NIV. So immediately, I thought, "I am going to have a problem here because they are going to follow me, and they are going to spend more time trying to figure out why that word does not match what I am saying, and I am going to lose them in that." So I was just smarter than the problem. I just said, "You know what? I am going to talk to you out of Psalms 1." I went through my introduction to Psalms 1 being a prelude to life and a model for a walk, and I said, "You know what? Today, just sit back and enjoy this message. Do not open up your Bibles. Do not worry about it. Just listen to me when I have got to say it. You can go back and study it later, but right now today, just sit back and relax. I want to tell you a story, and I want you to listen." Not one person opened up their Bible. Of course, I got a chance to preach the whole message out of a King James 1611 Authorized Version, which none of them had. But it is a thing where if I would not have done that, they would have been all caught up trying to say, "Well, that word does not match my word." I did not want that. It is just a matter of taking that out of the context and putting it over here, and nobody was the wiser. But you have got to have the right Bible, first of all.
2. You have to be saved. It is the Holy Spirit of God who is going to lead and guide you into all truth.
3. You need to have the right church. You have got to have a Bible-believing church off the true line out of the book of Acts that understands what their job is and what they are going to do and what their responsibility is to you.
4. You need a teaching priest. This is what Israel did not have in 2 Chronicles 15:3, that said, "For a long time they have been without the true God and no teaching priest and no law." You have got to have a pastor who understands two things. You have got to have a pastor who understands where he wants to get you, but also how he is going to get you there. If you do not have that, I have talked to a lot of guys over the years, and they say, "Hey, we are going to call a pastor. We are going to meet with some guys, and we just wanted to know what should we be asking them?" You can sum it up in two questions. You do not have to spend a lot of time. You could ask him two. You do not even have to buy him dinner. You can just send him back on the plane. You simply look at him and say, "Okay, if we call you as our pastor at our church, this church wants to grow spiritually. Tell us where you are going to

take us as a church, and then tell us how you are going to get us there." If he cannot answer those two, he is not going to do you any good. That is the job of a pastor. The job of a pastor is to get you to a place where God wants you to be in your life, but most of them are not concerned about that. They are concerned about what they want to do. They are concerned about what they want to accomplish. They do not ever look at the church as individuals. They look at the church as somebody that is there to do something for them. God has a calling for you. My job is to help you find that calling, but I have to have a plan to get you there, and that is the key.

5. You have got to have the right attitude toward the Word of God. The Word is everything. When you come to this Book, you have got to do as the Bible says, "When we heard the Word of God, we received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually works also in you that believe." When you get those things going for you, then God will begin what He talked about in Philippians 1:6 that we talk about all the time: God will begin that good work in you. This story, inspirationally, will help you hopefully better understand the process and how He is going to do that.

VII. Six Key Areas of God's Work in Your Life

As I come through this story, we are going to go back and break it down. You are going to find six key areas that you need to understand that God is going to put into your world, or at least you need to understand where you are at with this. These are personal things that I am going to give you. These will take place in your life after you make the commitment to God that you are going to be what He wants you to be. You get saved, you come to that point in your life, like so many of you, that you are going to buy into this ministry, you are going to be part of this ministry, you are going to grow through this ministry, and then you begin to realize that the Word of God is everything that God said it was, I said it was, and you want to begin to take that place in your life where you really learn your Bible. These things that I am going to talk about are things that you need to know about yourself. Also, what you need to know about how God is going to do some things because they are vital. As I teach you the Bible, you need to recognize these things and understand that this is what is going on. There are a lot of things in Christianity that the devil is going to try to use that are good things, but he is going to try to use to distract you. You need to be smarter than the problem. You need to look beyond the circumstances and see the hand of God in whatever is taking place in your life. It is just that simple. Most of God's people cannot do that, so they get canceled out before they ever get started. This is what will go on between you and God. We talked about this Thursday night on the inside man, when God is doing what He is doing in the inward man. So let us begin to look at these six. I am going to break them down very simply for you. I think they will help enlighten everything for you.

- It Takes a Miracle of God (John 6:1-6)
- Impossible Situations (John 6:7-9)
- God Gets You Alone (John 6:10-11)
- As Much as You Want (John 6:11)

- Nothing Lost (John 6:12-13)
- Knowing Who He Is (John 6:14)

VIII. Conclusion

This story and pictures like this in your Bible will show you how God will work in your life. Many of you are right in the middle of this right now. God is doing some tremendous things. God has made a process of our learning about Him through His Word. It is so simple, but it is all built around a supernatural life through a supernatural Book to prove you. God will get you to a church with much grass. He will give you a teaching priest. He will have others distribute the Bread of Life to you. Your job is to sit down. Exodus 14:13 says, "Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD." He says in 1 Thessalonians 4:11, "Study to be quiet." Then you allow God to get you alone. You do not let anything else get in your world to distract you. No boyfriend, no girlfriend, no this, no that. You just stay focused.

You know that when you look at that Book and you open it up every time, the most exciting thing about it is not what you understand or what you do not understand. The most exciting thing about it is in time you can have everything that is in it. There is no limit here on what you can get from the Word of God. There will be nothing lost. God will store in your heart for tomorrow's work. When you determine to get every ounce out of the Book, God will get every ounce out of you. I talk about how when I get into something in the Bible, I want to squeeze every drop out of it, and I have just about squeezed every drop out of the story as I could. But that is what God wants to do with you. He wants you to squeeze every drop out of that Book so He can squeeze every drop out of you and do something with you. It will only come as you allow God to do a miracle in your life. First off, a miracle of the new birth, the day you got saved. Second off, the miracle of a transformed life. God giving you a supernatural Book and you trusting God so much and believing what He says that you allow Him to prove you through the obstacles of life, the impossible circumstances, the things where most Christians are afraid of, the things that turn tail and run with most of God's people, the things that send them into hiding. You recognizing that this is God's hand, and it may be God's hand in judgment here or doing this here, but for you and for me, it is a proving ground because we do not stop the ministry. We may have to alter it, we may have to change it, we may have to take a different course, but we never stop. God will just keep taking you up different levels, keep adding things to it, giving you more blessings, take care of you and everything.

It comes down to, and the key will always be, allowing God to prove you. You leaving here today, trusting God that whatever comes in your life, you are going to let Him get you through it. It simply comes down, and with this I am done, simply allowing God through you to do the impossible because we believe the infallible. We believe that we have a Book that will get us through anything in life, and we do not have to fear it. It does not mean you do not be smart with it, it just means that you do not put your tail between your legs and hide from it. You find a way around it, find a way through it. Leadership leads. It does not just lead in the good times, it leads in the bad times. When you get into the bad times and you find yourself in a place of leadership,

that is when you really have to lead because people look and are drawn to leaders. Do not be like Andrew and Philip. Do not let the fear of others destroy you. Be a leader. Leaders lead. Leaders see God's hand in it even when you do not understand it. You just take for granted that God would never do anything. You may not figure it out, but you know everything in your life is in His hands, and you follow that even when you do not know it. God will prove you through it, and you will come, just like these people here. You come to a point where you will see Him as He really is.

We will hold up there. Next week we will move on in John chapter 6. We will be praying for everybody today at the rest home and everything else that is going on, and we appreciate you being here today. Let us have prayer. Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You.