

“Servant King” (Jn. 6:1-15)

1. Compassionate Leadership (1-5)

- a. Cf. 4:34-35; Mat. 14:14 (parallel).
- b. Passover:
 - i. Mentioned two other times. Both pointing to Him as the Lamb of God! 1:29, 36.
 - ii. Such a connotation necessitates compassion as He is our sacrificial substitute!
 - iii. Previously, John records the Passover when Jesus drove out the money changers (2:13, 23). The Temple was to be holy as to point to His purity of person where the ultimate Passover would take place.
 - iv. Subsequently and naturally, John points out the Passover week when Jesus came as King to Jerusalem on a donkey and laid down His life for our redemption while the lambs were being slain at the desolate Temple.
 - v. Here, Jesus is on a mountain side about to feed the multitude who are following Him. There are two implications which stand out to me viz. His provision of bread which will be equated to His body for their needs and their recognition of His kingship, albeit with erroneous connotations. ___>expound_____
 - vi. John will again emphasize a particular detail regarding Passover i.e. that not a bone was to be broken in the sacrificial lamb (19:36 Exod. 12:46; Num. 9:12).
- c. Compassion: The LORD surveys the world and individual hearts not with a spirit of condemnation and anger but with a Spirit of love and righteousness and mercy.

2. Inquisitive Teaching (5-9)

- a. The compassionate Shepherd inquired of Philip what to do about the multitude who had no food. “Where shall we buy bread that these may eat?”
- b. We are informed that Jesus had a plan but was using the need as a teaching point. We saw when Jesus’ mother informed Him of the wedding w/o wine and how He responded, “what has that to do with me?” Such pointed out his business was about greater things.
- c. What could Philip and or Andrew have said? “We know you can provide as you did at the wedding by producing wine.” Or, “People have fasted before and feeding on God’s Word is more important” (Deut. 8:3). We church goers know those answers because we are super spiritual!
- d. However, Jesus disciples apparently did not. They (like we) often saw the physical immediate need and looked to solve it most practically. And Andrew (like me) pointed out the seriousness of discrepancy – which proved that the solution was anything but practical if they were to eat!
- e. Our problems are seen as addictions, guilt, deprivation, inconvenience, and clueless folk around us. Those may be symptoms but they are not the problems. Our problems are internal, deep, profound, spiritual, and critical. We are sinners separated from our Maker and need to be reconciled to Him. Jesus did, in fact, feed them but His objective is feeding them the Word not bread.
- f. We must preach the Gospel in season and out so that others will know that the deep hunger inside cannot be filled with food, drugs, career, relationships, possessions, or achievements – only the Spirit of Christ!

3. Blessed Instructions (10)

- a. Jesus instructed His disciples to organize the people in groups to sit in the grass.
- b. Imagining what you’d think was about to happen.

“Servant King” (Jn. 6:1-15)

- c. It was emphasized that even what a boy had was a snack for a person which raises (to the reader of John) an anticipation of something big. However, did the disciples anticipate a miracle when Jesus gave them instructions?
4. Abundant Provisions (11-14)
 - a. The descriptions in this event harken OT events and promises:
 - i. The abundant grass (pastures) for those who follow the Good Shepherd (Ps. 23:2 cf. Jn. 10:9-10).
 - ii. The abundant provisions viz. food (Jer. 31:14; Isa. 49:9-11; Ruth 2:14).
 - iii. The miraculous provisions cf. parallel event in 2 Kings 4:42-44.
 - iv. Provision for the poor. Ps. 78:24 (manna). “Doubtless Jesus’ provision of so much bread to so many people in a wilderness area prompted some to think of Moses’ role in providing manna.”¹ Isa. 55:1-2; Ps. 22:26.
 - b. The event also pointed to future events and promises e.g. The Last Supper where Jesus gave thanks and broke the bread. Also, Jn. 10:9-10 (above), and Rev. 22:17 invitation to eat the spiritual food (cf. above Isa. 55:1-2).
 - c. More than enough. They collected more scraps than what they started out with!
5. Servant Leadership (15)
 - a. Jn. 5:46-47 = Jesus claims high status. If Moses (associated with manna) fed and led them out of slavery, surely Jesus who is the Prophet greater than Moses and who miraculously fed them, would lead them to liberation from Rome.
 - b. One can only have patience if he has hope or assurance in something or someone. But they have no patience and try to seize Him to make Him king (see Mat. 11:12). How foolish to recognize Jesus as the one greater than Moses and yet try to manipulate or make Him their puppet.
 - c. Jesus knew their plans and that they were not of God (see Mat. 16:21-23).
 - d. Jesus knew His hour had not yet come (cf. 8:20 w/ regard to opposition). When it did come – He acknowledged Himself to be King (Jn. 18:33-38).
 - e. Jesus is a King who first sought, served, conquered, and died for His servants rather than an opportunist king who would lord over His subjects. Edmund Clowney well stated, “for he would go to Jerusalem not to wield the spear and bring the judgment, but to receive the spear thrust and bear the judgment.”^{4 2}

¹ Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 271). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

⁴ Edmund P. Clowney, *art. cit.* (cf. fn. on 1:1).

² Ibid. Carson. 273.

“Servant King” (Jn. 6:1-15)

PC:

“Servant King” (Jn. 6:1-15)

“The key, beyond our believing in God’s ability and will to use us, lies in the wholeheartedness of our surrender to him. William Booth’s secret is an open one. Asked to explain the phenomenal impact of his life, he replied, ‘For the last eighty years God has had all that there is of William Booth.’ Through him Christ fed a multitude.”³ Booth followed in the steps of his Savior – who willingly submitted to the Father and joyfully served His contemporaries. However, Jesus would not be manipulated; nor would He take the appealing way of a superficial rule which might please His followers for a stint, yet leave them desolate in the end. He is the Good Shepherd who knows what is best for His sheep *and* He is also the Lamb who lovingly lays down His life for them. Precious, almighty, pure, and compassionate Savior – all praise, honor, glory, thanks, and loyalty unto you forevermore!

³ Milne, B. (1993). [*The message of John: here is your king!: with study guide*](#) (p. 107). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.