

*Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" John 6:5 ESV*

How often do we get stressed with situations in our lives and start to feel helpless and overwhelmed?

Jesus' disciples were faced with a situation for which they could not find a solution. There was a crowd of anything between 5000 and 15000 people to feed. They were in an isolated place and even if there was a shop next door, they didn't have the necessary resources to cover the expenses. They may well have started to panic, but Jesus never did.

*"Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do." (John 6:5-6 ESV)*

Jesus trusted His Father and already knew what He was going to do. He never worried about natural need and taught us not to do so either, because our Father loves us. See Matthew 6:25-34. He fed them in abundance, with ease.

*Jesus then 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 (John 6:11 ESV).*

Although He cared about their temporary physical need, He was more concerned about their spiritual, eternal reality and He used the attention created by this miracle to show them the way to eternal life.

When He later addressed the crowd who followed Him, He said, *"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."* (John 6:35 ESV).

He used this sign of the miracle provision to preach the Gospel: that He gives eternal life to all who believe in Him! And He gives it freely and in abundance. There is so much more than physical bread available!

Are you more focused on your physical needs than on the Source of life, Jesus?

- 1) What does this passage teach us about God? How does it apply to you?
- 2) Do you trust your heavenly Father and know that He cares about the details of your life and your needs?
- 3) How can you use the things God does in your life to share eternal realities with others?

Based on today's reading, what is one thing God is saying to you?