

JESUS BY JOHN

— THE BREAD AND THE BLOOD —

PART 1: The Scandal

PART 2: The Bread

PART 3: The Blood

APPETIZER: Who's Leaving Who?

Last week: In medias res – **John 6:60, 66.**

“On hearing it, many of his disciples said ‘This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?’...From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.”

This week: **John 6:14-15.**

“...the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did...”
“Jesus...withdrew again to a mountain by himself.”

DINE IN: Who Ate The Bread?

John 6:1-15

The Crowd

John 6:2

Jesus pulls away from them, and they still follow with curiosity.

The Committed

John 2:23

Within the crowd are hundreds of people who would identify as disciples of Jesus – they have seen his signs and heard his teachings and choose to follow him.

The Core

John 6:3

These are the twelve disciples who journeyed with Jesus. They are ones who knew him most intimately, and even they couldn't understand how Jesus would solve this problem.

Assessing the Situation:

- Jesus sees the needs of the crowd and has a plan.
- Philip (and the disciples) can't see solution.
- Why does Jesus need to test his disciples?

Experiencing the Miracle:

- Glimmers of hope or snarky skepticism?
- Ex nihilo = out of nothing. Jesus could have produced an abundance of food out of nothing, but instead chooses to partner with what people can provide.
- This points to an upside-down Kingdom: (boy, barley, fish & King)

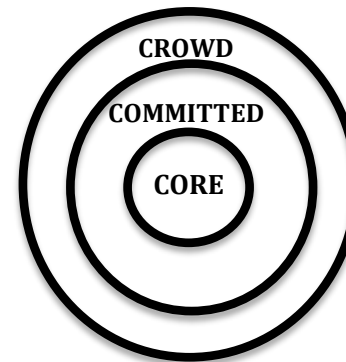
The Response:

- The people saw what Jesus did and thought that he must be the prophet and Messiah they have been waiting for.
- Jesus withdraws.

Deut. 18:15-18

TAKE OUT: Who Is Jesus?

Where are you in this story?



Who are you forcing Jesus to be?

Jesus > Moses

Jesus fulfills the promises, but not in the way they expect. Even a noble expectation of Jesus can be incomplete.

NEXT WEEK... Part 3 of *Jesus by John: The Bread and the Blood*

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Review Sunday's sermon and talk about what most interested you and/or lingering questions that remain.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **John 6:1-15**.
 - a. Spend time as a group discussing what you picture when you read this passage. (i.e – how do you think the food was multiplied: new loaves appearing? Breaking off one piece and another one would form in its place? What sort of buzz would have been going around?)
 - b. What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why?
 - c. Notice the responses of Philip (**v.5**), Andrew (**v.8**) and check out **Luke 9:12** for the rest of the disciples' responses. What can you relate to? Do you think Andrew was hopeful or skeptical?
 - d. Read **v.12** again. What do you think is the significance of Jesus instructing this?
 - e. What are some of the ways we force Jesus to be someone that he's not?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. Use your Huddle Questions and pray for one another.
4. Share as a huddle where you find yourself in the story. Are you in the Crowd? Committed? Core? What steps you can take to keep moving closer to the center? (Keep in mind that even the core twelve disciples sometimes misunderstood and doubted Jesus and his teaching).