

Supply on Demand

In the book of John in chapter six we see one of the most popular of all of Jesus' miracles where he takes five barley loaves and two small fishes from a local boy and feeds five thousand people and still had twelve baskets of bread fragments left above what the people had eaten. Many people that were witnesses to this supernatural occurrence exclaimed that Jesus was the prophet that was foretold would come into the world from scripture. Upon hearing this Jesus does not receive them or their applause but departs from them because he perceived that they were going to try to make him king by force. This, at a glance, seems odd because He was a King and it seems that they were in agreement with His purpose. Wasn't it true that He was spoken of by many earlier prophets who had uttered Messianic messages concerning His coming? The next day the multitude went looking for him and when they couldn't find him they got on ships and went on a frantic search for him on the other side of the sea. When they found him they asked Him why he came there but again Jesus does something odd. He doesn't answer their question but instead tells them that he has uncovered their true motive and knows the reason they came. ***John 6:26-27 says "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. Labour 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.*** This seems like a strange rebuff for men who were clearly seeking Jesus and who had gone to some extraordinary lengths to get to him yet he was not impressed.

In fact, His statement to them seems to say that they were not seeking His face but were seeking to use and manipulate Him. The congregation had totally missed the point of the miracles. Christ wasn't saying "I'm able" but was saying "I am He". Many believers miss the point of Gods miracles and blessings in our lives because we are more interested in the supply more than the mercy of the supplier. It would not hard to look at these men as hard charging seekers because they had the tenacity not to give up until they found Him and even called Him Rabbi (teacher) when they saw Him. If they had only understood what He had really done for them they would have called Him Lord and Messiah. Jesus saw that these were men who did not come demanding to know more about His Kingdom or to repent or even give thanks but instead had an increased appetite for more fish. The kind of king they were seeking was one that would do special tricks to make sure that every one of their sensual needs would be met on demand and that the supply would be endless. They sought to own Jesus and lord over his power with absolutely no desire to be owned by Him or to have him be their Lord or Savior. The miracle did not convince them of their need for His divine love that moved Him to feed perfect strangers and to take pity on others without regard to self. They missed the heart of God and saw only a bread and fish merchant.

They admired Jesus because He had given to them materially and wanted their empty stomachs filled and not their empty hearts. How many believers today say that they love God but miss the true relationship of favor and mercy that Christ offers simply because what they truly love is what Gods ability to provide. They are blind to the truth that He, alone, is the sealed and sanctioned Lamb of God who bore all of our transgressions on Calvary's cross and has made everlasting life possible for all who believe in Him. He paid a debt that He didn't owe and that we could never repay and it's a shame that many of His creation chase after Him because they see Him as an ATM machine or a fountain of health and wealth. Material things have their place but His promise of abundant life is not about stuff. It's about realizing the truth of how empty we are without Jesus in our lives and the filling of that void place with the Living Spirit of God in our hearts. Jesus made it clear that we labor after dreams that have a short shelf life when we seek after things that only fill the flesh. The non- perishable items are kept in Gods heavenly storehouse where only true worshipers can shop. ***John 4:23-24 says" But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall WORSHIP the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to WORSHIP him. God is a Spirit: and they that WORSHIP him must WORSHIP him in spirit and in truth.***