

- I. Opening Thoughts
 - A. This is the 4th sign performed by Jesus in John's Gospel
 - B. This is the only miracle that is mentioned in all 4 Gospels
 - C. This miracle demonstrates Jesus' power over creation
 - D. This passage sets the stage for Jesus' discourse on the "bread of life"
 - E. This particular miracle attests to God as Provider (Jehovah-jireh)
- II. Exegetical Notes
 - A. At least 1 year passed between chapters 5 and 6
 - B. The crowds followed not out of belief, but out of curiosity concerning the miracles that He performed. In spite of their crass motivations, Jesus still has compassion, healed their sick and feeds them
 - C. Jesus asked Philip the question to test him and teach him.
 - D. 200 denarii were about 8 months wages for the common worker. One denarius was a day's wage
 - E. Philip flunked the test because he didn't think the money was enough
 - F. Andrew demonstrated a lack of faith with his response, too!
 - G. Barley was the cheapest kind of bread, usually reserved for the poorest people. The fish was probably the size of sardines. The barley loaves were actually cakes, the size of Twinkies
 - H. This multiplication of food, barley, was performed by Elisha in 2 Kings 4:42-44
 - I. 5,000 men, plus women and children; thus, between 10-15,000
 - J. Jesus provided more than enough for the people; they were full. This is the God of Providence (the One who provides) at work.
 - K. This echoes God and Abraham (Genesis 22). The 12 baskets represent the 12 tribes of Israel and the wilderness experience when their covenant God provided daily manna (bread from heaven) for His people (Exodus 16)
 - L. God miraculously meets the needs of His people through His appointed son Jesus Christ who multiplies the loaves and fish – Sproul
 - M. Calling Jesus "the Prophet" referred to Deut. 18:15. This indicated their desire for Jesus to meet their physical, rather than their spiritual, needs. They were looking for Him to deliver them from Roman oppression, when what they were under was spiritual oppression.
 - N. They wanted a king to care for them from the cradle to the grave
 - O. They were looking for the kingdom of man, but Jesus came to bring the Kingdom of God
 - P. Our King gives us all that we need and enough left over to fill a multitude of vastness. Jesus provides lavishly