

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The book is held vertically, and bright, golden light rays emanate from the pages, creating a dramatic, ethereal effect. The background is dark, making the light from the book stand out. The text 'BOOK of JOHN' is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font. The word 'BOOK' is in a bold, all-caps font, 'of' is in a smaller, elegant script font, and 'JOHN' is in a bold, all-caps font.

BOOK *of* JOHN

MIRACLES FOR THE MULTITUDE

JOHN 6:1-14

Do you see things from God's perspective or your own abilities and resources?

- The problem in our passage was how to meet the needs of such a vast crowd of people when you apparently have nothing and not much money, either.
- Would faith or fear be the response?

We need to combine all four Gospel accounts of this event to see the whole picture.

FOUR PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- 1.** First, the disciples suggested that Jesus simply send the people away. **Mark 6:35-36**
- 2.** The second solution came from Philip in response to our Lord's "*faith test question*" (**John 6:5**): Raise enough money to buy food for the people.
- 3.** The third solution was: "Grab the kid's lunch."
- 4.** The fourth solution came from Jesus, and it was the faith solution: ***bless and break*** what you do have.







AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION v. 4-7

A denarii's true purchasing value was enough pay for a full day's work in the vineyard, for 12 hours of work.

Matthew 20:2

- *At minimum wage today*, Philip would have said something tantamount to: *“Look, Guys, \$20,000.00 worth of bread or more than 8,000 loaves is not sufficient to feed this mass of humanity; get real.”*
- This was a faith problem, not simply a food shortage.

THE IMPOSSIBLE SOLUTION v. 8-10

Barley loaves were the 10-for-a-buck, 99-Cent-Store ramen of the Middle East.

- OK, so let's take the lad's lunch.
- Have the crowd sit down, which contained families and was infinitely greater than the mere feeding of five thousand men.
- **It is highly likely this crowd was over 20,000!**
- OK . . . now everybody please just smell the basket.

***THE FAITH SOLUTION* v. 11-14**

This is the biblical standard by which all true ministry must be measured.

- We take from His hand that which we pass to others.
- We can only “bless and break” what He has given.
- The Church may dispense the blessings, but God alone can give them.

PUT IT IN HIS HANDS

Jesus did not scorn the loaves because they were few, nor the fish because they were “small.”

THIS IS A STORY OF GREAT GRACE

- A Great Scarcity
- Placed in the hands of our Great Savior
- Results in Great Satisfaction

Let's give Him what we have that He might feed the world a feast of His love as He blesses and breaks!