

## **#21 – John 6:1-14**

**Need:** To see that God has the power and desire of fulfill our every need.

**Aim:** To move the believer to trust God for everything we need.

**Title:** “Every Need Supplied”

**Prop:** In Jn. 6:1-14 we find the **I. Basic Need – Jn. 6:1-4**, follow by the **II. Intervention of Jesus – Jn. 6:5-14** which shows the believer that God has the power and ability to provide for our every need.

**Intro:** One of the great and basic challenges of life is living within one’s means. Apparently only the government can practice “**deficit spending,**” without being indicted for fraud.

As a young adult, prior to marriage, I was always overdrawing on my checking account. My thought was that if I had checks, I had money. I finally realized that was not true after paying some rather stiff overdraft charges and having to make good on my checks at various places of business, with cash, as they wouldn’t take another check. My basic problem was the difference between want and need. I am an impulse buyer. I see it and buy it without giving any thought to whether it was a need or want. In retail sales it was about creating a need in a prospective buyer.

One of the great challenges of life is to have the ability to see the difference between need and want. I want a lot of things in life, but many of these things I don’t need. And in most cases if I did get my wish, it would most certainly destroy me spiritually and most likely physically and

emotionally as well. God always gives me what I need and saves me from myself by not giving me my selfish and destructive wants.

Here in John 6 we find a great need. Jesus provided more than enough, an overabundance beyond the need. The story here is full of applications and principles which are adaptable to our own needs, primarily our spiritual need.

**Prop: In Jn. 6:1-14 we find the I. Basic Need – Jn. 6:1-4, followed by the II. Intervention of Jesus – Jn. 6:5-14 which shows the believer that God has the power and ability to provide for our every need.**

**Transition: Let's begin with the identification of the basic need here in verses 1-4.**

## **I. Basic Need – Jn. 6:1-4**

### **A. Introductory Matters**

**1. Old Testament Implications** – There is no doubt that there is a tie between the story here in chapter 6:1-14 and the journey of Israel from Egypt to the promised land. When the food and water provisions ran out in the desert, God provided manna from heaven and water out of a rock. This heavenly bread fell from heaven for over 40 years until Israel entered the Promised Land and began to eat of the fruit of the countryside. Jesus will present Himself as the Bread of Life; He came to give spiritual food to

all who are willing that they too might have life now and for the future and have it abundantly.

The story of the woman at the well was tied to Jesus as the Rock in the Old Testament account found in the book of Exodus from which life giving water was supplied.

**2. Transitional Phrase (1)** – In verse one, John presented Jesus as having moved on from His encounter with the Pharisees to the other side of the Sea of Galilee some 33 miles in circumference, also renamed Tiberias for the Emperor of Rome.

**3. Chief Participants (2)** – When Jesus was confronted by the religious leaders a rather large crowd had gathered around to witness the debate concerning the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God. No one quite captured that concept as it was radical to the spiritual dearth of that time. They could not perceive the idea of God in human form. And if He was, why was He here?

As Jesus traveled to the other side of the lake, the crowds followed Him. They didn't understand His words, but they physically had witnessed and many experienced His ability to heal all ailments. Universal health care at its best!! Jesus healed all comers free of charge.

**B. Time Line (3-4)**

**1. Personal Time (3)** – In verse three, Jesus stole away with His disciples for some down time as He climbed up a hill side and spent some personal time with His chosen men.

**2. Passover (4)** – The time was early spring; Easter, as many call it today, was known to the Jew as Passover season. Once a year each family unit would buy a spotless lamb, roast it in the fire and serve it as the family was dressed for travel. It called to remembrance God's deliverance from Egypt. The high priest also took a lamb and offered a blood sacrifice for the sin of the nation upon the altar found in the holy of holies in the temple of God. The blood was a covering looking forward to the sacrifice of Jesus, the Son of God who would offer His blood as the final sacrifice for sin. Not just covering it but His blood takes away all sin.

**Transition: We now have the stage for the rest of the story found in verses 5-14.**

**II. Intervention of Jesus – Jn. 6:5-14****A. Basic Need (5-7)**

**1. Large Crowd** – In verse 5, we find that a crowd followed Jesus, some out of curiosity, some for healing and others wanting to see Jesus to perform

more miracles. It was better than TV or a movie. Here was a man who could do wonderful and marvelous things.

As a result of following Jesus, the crowd found themselves well outside of town in the middle of nowhere and the need for food was pressing. The place to which they had come was the result of a 16 ½ miles walk. The crowd had increased by the hour and conservative numbers were 5,000 men plus wives, children and other individuals, which pushed the number to 15,000 or more. In those days there were no fast food establishments, no towns nearby which would have that kind of food supply on hand. No one had any thought of possible consequences of traveling with Jesus 16 ½ miles into the wilderness without any preparation for provisions.

**2. Challenge to Philip (5-7)** – Observing the size of the crowd, Jesus turned to Philip and issued a challenge: **“Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?”** It was a personal question to Philip. I think it was because he had been seeking Messiah when Jesus called him. At first it was out of curiosity that he came at the bequest of his friend Nathanael.

Upon meeting Jesus for the first time his response was: **“Certainly you are Messiah.”** With this question Jesus was testing the depth and nature of Philip’s belief.

Now think for moment. Having been asked the question in verse 6, Philip looked out at a sea of humanity and his lack of faith was realized. The reason they had come was to see Jesus. The need was great and Philip was over whelmed.

In verse 7 Philip answered Him: **“200 denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.”** A denarius was the equivalent of one day’s wage. Even if they could find the supply there was not enough money to meet the need. Keep in mind what Jesus had done up to this point. He has healed all comers, given sight to the blind, and healed the sick. The lame were made to walk and the demon possessed had been released from spiritual bondage. What is the challenge here? Is it insurmountable? Jesus wanted to show another facet of His power and person. He was the **“Bread of Life!”** He alone could provide for these people, in spite of His followers’ unbelief. They were faced with the impossible. With Jesus all things are possible.

## **B. Provisions from an Unlikely Source (8)**

**1. Provisions (8)** – In verse 8, Andrew, Peter’s brother took it upon himself to find what resources were available. Andrew was a problem solver. He came to Jesus with a young lad who had come prepared. He had five small loaves of bread, and two dried or smoked fish. He had just enough for

himself. Andrew sought out resources, but even he had major doubts about what was available in verse 9.

I find it admirable that the boy offered what he had, as meager as it seemed at the outset. God always multiplies whatever we offer though it be meager and seemingly of no worth. The call is to offer everything. God never calls us to do the impossible, that's His job, but He does call us to give everything we have to His control. We bring nothing into salvation except our sin, despair and sense of hopelessness; nothing that God can use. He takes away our sin and places His Spirit within our hearts; He gives us hope and purpose in this life and ultimately eternal life. This boy gave everything and God took and used it to fulfill great need.

The world has seen many great evangelists in its history. But I wonder about the power behind men like Billy Graham, who at times seems to thrive when faced with impossible odds.

He recognized his God-given ability to bring thousands to Christ was attributed to the power of prayer of the common people who also supported him with sufficient funds for his crusades. All TV time was paid in full by the time of the broadcast. Therefore there was no verbal plea for money, unlike many of the people on the air waves. The pleas for money are

softened by the words: **“Planting a seed.”** It simply meant sending them money.

**2. Jesus Takes Charge (10-14)** – All options had been exhausted, but the problem still existed: the people needed food. The order was to have people sit down. To magnify the miracle the Apostle John added the count of five thousand men. But there was many more. There was about three times more at the very least. All were exhausted and in need of food.

In verse 11, Jesus took the loaves gave thanks to God and gave them to the disciples to distribute; He did likewise with the fish and every one ate as much as they wanted and were filled. For many it was the first time they had ever had enough to eat. The idea was stuffed to the full.

When the bread line ended Jesus commanded His men to gather up in large baskets the leftover bread, so that none would be wasted. In verse 13, 12 large baskets of bread were left over.

**3. Dramatic Response (14)** – In verse 14, people recognized what Jesus had done and the general consensus was: **“This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”**

In my experience I have found that Jesus has met my every need. The point is this; we live with several safety nets in all areas of life. Don't have enough money? Put it on a credit card. No job? There is always

unemployment and or disability. Not that any of those government programs are bad. But at what point do we begin to rely upon God and His resources?

Second, Jesus takes whatever we offer Him and multiplies it. The only thing we can offer Him is our sinful heart. Through the blood of Jesus He washes us clean and implants in us the Holy Spirit who then makes us spiritually alive. That connection with God that died in the Garden of Eden is resurrected back to life through the Holy Spirit. With nothing to offer, Jesus gives us everything we need. He fills us to full to meet our spiritual needs. He provides all that we need. But we need to be willing and to be able to recognize the difference between need and want.

When my wife's car died a few years back we were faced with making a huge choice. The car needed to be replaced but we were at opposite ends of the scale between need and want. I envisioned payments. She consulted with our son Joel who found her a used 1989 Buick LeSabre for \$850. We received \$500 for her old car. So with \$300 plus \$100 tune up, two new tires and a fuel pump she had replace her car for under a \$100. The car has paint issues and some minor interior flaws, but it gets her from point A to B. The other day I asked if she was okay with her vehicle. Her reply: "I am content." So instead of rushing out and spending a huge

amount of cash, plus payments God, supplied our need. My Durango was a gift from my mother's hidden certificate of deposit. God supplies our every need.

But's let go beyond that as to what Jesus' real intent was. He provides the gift of salvation which goes far beyond our wildest expectations. He became a man, (explain that one to me), lived among sinful men, then willingly went to the cross to die for our sin. He was resurrected back to life to open the way to God for all who will believe. God has done everything that can be done. Everything is done, open. We need to call upon Jesus to meet the desperate need of all mankind.

So how is your life going?

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#### **A. Introductory Matters**

1. Old Testament Implications
2. Transitional Phrase (1)
3. Chief Participants (2)

#### **B. Time Line (3-4)**

1. Personal Time (3)
2. Passover (4)

### **II. Intervention of Jesus – Jn. 6:5-14**

#### **A. Basic Need (5-7)**

1. Large Crowd
2. Challenge to Philip (5-7)

#### **B. Provision from an Unlikely Source (8-14)**

1. Provisions (8)
2. Jesus Takes Charge (10-14)
3. Dramatic Response (14)

