

1. **GOD LOVES YOU** and wants you to have eternal life with Him.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

2. Man has a **SIN problem** which **SEPARATES** him from GOD. Every one has sinned.

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

3. The **good news** is that **JESUS CHRIST** is God's **solution** to your sin problem. He is the **ONLY way** to heaven.

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."

4. Therefore you must **REPENT** of your sins and place your **FAITH** in **JESUS alone** to save you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

5. Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a **NEW LIFE** with complete assurance of **SALVATION**.

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

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Feeding of the Multitude: Grace upon Grace Amidst Unbelief and Imperfect Faith

(John 6:1-14) Jesus turning water into wine in a wedding...healing the dying child of a royal official of Herod Antipas... healing a lame man by the Pool of Bethesda...these first three miracles recorded in John demonstrate Christ's power of creation, the power of his spoken words, and his power to heal.

In ch. 6 a great crowd of people - about 15,000 to 20,000 - followed Jesus to the mountainside. The explanation for this huge crowd is that for at least 6 months prior to this miracle, Jesus had been teaching them, healing the sick, driving out demons from those possessed, and raising the dead. So the people came in droves, out of excitement and out of eagerness to see the supernatural WORKS of Christ. The feeding of the multitudes took place towards the end of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee.

Christ demonstrates his love and compassion despite man's unbelief and self-seeking interests. (vv. 1-4)

The fourth miracle of Jesus took place in the mountainside. Jesus and his disciples felt deep sadness upon hearing the tragic news that John the Baptist had died and they decided to find a solitary place to rest.

But as John indicated in v. 2, a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Despite his weariness and sadness about John's death, Jesus looked at the crowd with compassion and decided to provide food for them in the wilderness. To help us appreciate the significance of divine compassion, consider that: **first**, the people who were following Jesus were mere sign seekers. They loved not the person, but his miraculous works. These wide-eyed Jews were fascinated with the supernatural; and **second**, they were benefit seekers. The sick came to be healed. Does this sound familiar today? Thousands are drawn to preachers who promise health and wellness if they keep coming and giving to the church. And yet, according to Mathew's account in v. 14, Jesus felt compassion for them.

Christ tests our imperfect faith so we can know him more intimately. (v. 5-9)

Jesus had twelve disciples, but he chose to test Philip, a man who lived by "common sense." In Philip's mind, it was impossible to feed a crowd of 15 to 20 thousand given their situation. Jesus already knew what to do, but he wanted to demonstrate to Philip that what is impossible to man is possible to Christ as the Messiah, the Son of God. Many of us are like Philip. If it was imperfect faith for Philip, it was unbelief for the crowd, who never believed in Jesus as the Messiah in the first place. They followed him for self-seeking interests-to see the miracles and signs, to be healed, and to be fed. There was no testing of faith for the crowd for there was no faith in the first place.

Christ extends grace upon grace meeting needs despite unbelief and strengthening imperfect faith.

Although the multitudes were mere sign seekers who did not really believe in Jesus as the messiah, Jesus extended grace upon grace to them. He set aside his weariness, his lack of sleep and healed their sick. Not only this, he thought about their hunger and provided for them abundantly.

And Jesus extended grace to Philip also. This miracle allowed Philip to see and know Jesus in a different light: that what is impossible based on common sense is possible with Jesus because he is the Word incarnate, the Son of God, fully man and fully God. We should take courage that though our faith may be imperfect, like Philip, the Lord never gives up on us. The Lord puts us in impossible situations to help us know him more intimately: that we can trust him at all times.

JOIN US!

A Discipleship Group or D-Group is a great opportunity to meet regularly with a small group of people from CCF to study the bible, pray and support each other. D-Groups meet regularly in different parts of the Lower Mainland. Connect with us at contact@ccfvancouver.org and we will find a group for you.

Praise and Worship Team

... is looking for musician (instruments) volunteers to join

our team. If you can play an instrument, and are available to serve with the Praise and Worship Team at least once a month, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at contact@ccfvancouver.org.

An Invitation to Share Your Story

Would you like to encourage one another, and give honor and glory to God through your personal testimony? Email Bryan Pinpin at ebpinpin@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be training on "Every Family a DGroup" with Pastor Danny Perez on August 6th (Sunday), at Douglas College (Room N1220) from 1 to 3pm.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please use CCF tithe envelopes (available at usher's table) for ALL tithes, offerings and donations. Our tithe box is located at the usher's table.

If you're giving via cheque, please write it to CCF Vancouver.

You can now give ONLINE!! Just go to www.ccfvancouver.org/give/ to donate. Thank you.



ORDER OF SERVICE

- Call to worship
- Praise and worship
- Children dismissal
- Announcements
- Sermon
- Response song
- Benediction



Name _____ Phone/Email _____

Prayer Request/Answered Prayer

Please drop in tithe boxes