

“Who is Jesus” part 2

“Miracles”: John 6:1-15, 25-40

Intro: Video disclaimer: This video is not intended to cause offence. I think this is funny, but it also sad because it reminds us what many people think of who Jesus is. So feel free to laugh... but think about this: is this how some people see Jesus?

- This guy is really good! Rowan Atkinson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KN-8G0HCD5U>

This IS how a lot of people see Jesus. A magician. An illusionist. A legend.

Today, we’ve read from the Bible a pretty well known story – Jesus feeds the 5000. And he does all these other “tricks” in the gospels. Healing the sick. Calming storms. Raising the dead. Driving out demons. Walking on water. Turning water into wine. So what do these miracles tell us about **who Jesus is?**

Who Jesus is: he meets our needs today

(Table on screen)

Miracle	Reveals
Healing	Power over sickness
Raising from the dead	Power over death
Drive out demons	Power over Satan
Calms storm, walks on water	Power over nature

Here’s a little summary:

- When Jesus heals, he shows his power over sickness.
- When he raises the dead, he shows his power over death.
- When he drives out demons, he shows his power over Satan.
- When he calms storms or walks on water, he shows his power over nature.

Basically, through the miracles, Jesus shows he has power over the chaotic, sinful world we live in. He has power over the effects of sin in our world and over sin itself. Death and sickness, Satan, storms and natural disasters – all consequences of a sinful world. And Jesus has power over them.

Let’s look at the story we read earlier, the feeding of the 5000.

5000 men, plus probably their families with them, on a mountain in the countryside. And they need to be fed. They’ve followed Jesus to the middle of a mountainside. And Jesus sees that they need food. That’s important. Right there. Verse 5:

5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”

Jesus has so much compassion. I know what I would have said as a disciple at that point. “Why is this our responsibility? They should have packed a lunch! Not our problem!”

Philip says: “It’ll take 1 ½ years of wages to feed this crowd!”

Now, I did some calculations. Just based on 5000 men. \$8.95 for a large Big Mac meal. That’s \$44,750. Just for the men who were there. You can see why Philip was starting to get a little stressed over this!

And then, this is brilliant, verses 8-9:

8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, **9** "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Brilliant. "Here is a boy with 5 Big Macs. And some chicken nuggets. Ummm... how far will that go?"

So Jesus has compassion, and doesn't give them Big Macs. He takes the fish and loaves. He gives thanks. And he distributes them. Everyone has as much as they want. And there are 12 baskets of bread left over. Just enough to make the point Jesus wants to make:

"I see your need, and I can provide!"

Jesus sees our needs. Whether it's a hungry crowd, or a sick girl, or a dead son, or a demon possessed man, or a boat in a storm, or the sin in our life – Jesus KNOWS our needs. And he **can** provide.

No one else can do that for us like Jesus. In every miracle, Jesus reveals that he is able to provide and that we can trust him. Yet we often doubt that, don't we?

We often try to meet all of our needs **ourselves**. We worry about bills and we worry about how much we have. We worry about needing more. We worry about back up plans. We doubt God because he's not providing us with what WE think we need. But these miracles remind us that He DOES know our needs. And he is able to provide for us. He is able. We can trust him.

III – When I go to my doctor, I always like looking at all the certificates on his wall. I can see that he graduated from university. In medicine. And there's a certificate to say he's a member of a medical society. So I'm putting my life in the hands of someone who is qualified and recognised as a doctor.

And then I see his 2013 City to Surf completion certificate. So I'm putting my life in the hands of someone who can run 14 kilometres!

But you know what I really like to see on my doctor's wall? All the hand made cards of the kids who are his patients. "Thank you for making me better." Thank you for giving me the injection, even though it hurt." Stuff like that. Because THOSE CARDS tell me that **he has made people well**.

I want to see the testimony! I want to see proof that my life is in the hands of someone who can actually look after my needs! And the miracles of Jesus are our proof. The miracles show us that Jesus **knows** our needs and **can** look after us. The miracles show us that we are putting our life in the hands of the one who is powerful over everything in this world.

Who Jesus is: he meets our needs tomorrow and forever

The miracles of Jesus shows us who Jesus is, and that he can meet our needs. But the miracles ALSO show us he can meet our **future** needs. And every miracle of Jesus is a snapshot of what eternal life with him will be like:

Miracle	What's Eternal life like?
Healing	There will be no sickness
Raising from the dead	There will be no death
Drive out demons	There will be no Satan, no sin, no evil.
Calms storm, walks on water	There will be no chaos.

Every miracle is actually a glimpse of heaven. Every miracle reminds us of the hope of a pain free, death free, Satan free, chaos free world that we will live in with him.

III – While I was writing this sermon I had a call from overseas. And I am now glad they called, because it makes an excellent illustration. It was a call from India. About my toner supplies for my printer. He said “Hello pastor Bruce”. I said “Hello”. He said “Do you remember me?” I said “No” He said “I provide your toner for your Samsung printer!” I said “I don’t have a Samsung printer” He said “For your Xerox printer” I said “I don’t have a Xerox printer.” He said “What sort of printer do you have?” I said “I’m not telling you.” He said “Can I have your address so I can send some things out to you?” I said “No”.

He was a fraud. And here was his main problem:

He did not know my future needs.

In today’s reading, the people saw Jesus’ feeding miracle and they followed him – from verse 30:

30 So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? **31** Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

32 Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

The people saw Jesus as a prophet *like Moses*. When the Israelites escaped Egypt and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the promised land, Moses lead them, and they were fed with manna that fell from the sky each day.

And now Jesus has fed them on a mountain in the wilderness. And the people are saying: “This is just like what Moses did!” This is the prophet who will lead us now!

But Jesus says – This time, God is giving you TRUE bread from heaven. Bread that gives **life**. **Future** life. **Eternal** life. Not bread that will just fill you up for a day at a time.

And the people say: “Always give us **this** bread.”

And Jesus says: “**I** am the bread of life.”

So in the wilderness, under Moses, the people were fed each day with this bread that fell from heaven. Each day it came. Each day they collected it. And each day it fed them. And now, Jesus says: “**I** am the bread of **life**. Whoever comes to **me** will **never** go hungry, and whoever believes in **me** will **never** be thirsty.”

The world says this: Trust no-one. Depend on yourself. It’s up to you.

But Jesus says: “You can depend on me. I can provide your needs **today, tomorrow and forever.**” Not only will our future in heaven be pain free, death free, Satan free, chaos free, but JESUS is the only one who can give us this life. And this is what we need. Not just our **daily** bread, but our **eternal** bread.

The miracles of Jesus teach us this: **Only Jesus** can meet all of our **eternal** needs, and offer us an **eternal** future, and restore **eternal** order to the world, the universe, and to our lives. Is your world ever in chaos? ONLY JESUS can restore that chaos, day by day, year by year, and for eternity. It is Jesus **alone** who can meet your needs today, tomorrow, and forever.

(Prayer)

John 6:1-15, 25-40

6:1 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), **2** and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. **3** Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. **4** The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" **6** He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, **9** "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). **11** Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." **13** So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." **15** Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

... **25** When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

26 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. **27** Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

30 So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? **31** Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

32 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."

35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. **36** But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. **37** All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. **38** For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. **39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. **40** For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."