

## **Bible Study – Gospel of John 6: 1 – 15**

**How do you understand this incident/sign as a question and response section? What are the messages the question convey? (6: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)**

1. Every question of impossibility in our life is the surface/opportunity for Jesus to perform a sign. Therefore, do not worry about those questions in our life, rather wait with faith for Jesus to act on it (v 5)
2. It is sometimes, these kind of questions which brings out the real kind of discipleship (v 2, 7, 8, 9). Therefore, these questions are an opportunity for the disciples as well to prove their quality of the discipleship
3. Let our responses to the questions in our life do not point to an impossibility, but to faith, Jesus, and to a solution (v 7)
4. Some questions in our life is to test us so that we will be guided into the higher levels when the test is passed (v 6)
5. The questions and the test in the life of a child of God never ends up in hopelessness but in the display of God's glory and overflowing abundance (v 5, 6, 11, 12)
6. A believing and committed child of God doesn't produce hopelessness and stress when tested (v 6)
7. Even though the question is asked to test Philip, it also reveals the concern of Jesus for the crowd who follow him (v 5)
8. In the same question Jesus asks to test us also has his concern for us if we really understand it. (You do not have to go to any other places for an answer. The question itself will reveal the answer in course of time if we wait faithfully)

**How do you understand this incident/sign as an Intelligence Vs Faith section? How do you understand Faith in this incident? (6: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)**

1. Many of the answers of the questions in our life as Christians cannot be find by intelligence? Intellectual search for the answers of questions in Christian life may lead one to confusion, doubts and scarcity. But faith can lead us into satisfaction and completion (v 7, 8, 9, 10)
2. Philip is a person who always used his brain and would like to see the exactness before taking a decision (14: 8). Jesus asked this question to Philip by knowing his character and also by knowing that he is a native of nearby Bethsaida. Philip used his brain, experiences, and familiarity of the place and answered the question. But his answered contained only scarcity, hopelessness and incompleteness.
3. All that Jesus was looking was a response of faith. Jesus was not only looking for faith in words but in action too. Andrew was speaking faith when he presented what the boy had. But he had to put his faith into action when Jesus asked to make the people sitting down. (v 10)
4. Jesus not only want to hear the faith but see it too

5. Andrew, in fact, became a fool to express his faith. (1 Cor. 1: 20, 21, 25, 27) – Apply these verses to the incident.
6. Five barley loaves and two fish was the provision for his personal use. But the boy neglected (forgot) his own self and became plentiful for the multitude. Barley bread was a bread of cheap kind. The inner quality of the boy override his outward (physical) quality (v 9)
7. The boy's commitment to give and Andrews attitude to believe like a fool were instrumental in Jesus performing the miracle
8. Faith led to a filling level and to a level where there is leftovers (v 11, 12) as opposed to intellect without faith which led to insufficiency and a level of a little (v 7)

**What are the messages this sign conveys? (6: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)**

1. What it takes Jesus to perform a sign/miracle is within us, i.e. the faith, the commitment, and so on. (The presentation of faith, commitment, and so on). One doesn't need to go out of him for Jesus to perform a miracle for him
2. The disciples were just the distributors of the miracle Jesus performed. They were not the performers/producers and owners.
3. Gathering the leftover pieces may signify that the experience of Jesus sign has to be carried on. Jesus signs do not end in itself. It is an experience and a message that has to be carried on.
4. People tried to make him their king by seeing the sign he performed. But Jesus did not want to be their king and moved out of that place. People wanted Jesus to be their king because they saw them as an accredited divine leader who can lead them against the Romans (for freedom) and also someone who can meet their needs by performing signs. They were selfish with their motives, freedom and needs. They wanted to use him for their further needs. Jesus rejected they offer because he hasn't seen any commitment towards him and his mission<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Bailey points out that *He who is already King has come to open his kingdom to men; but in their blindness men try to force Him to be the kind of king they want; thus they fail to get the king they want, and also lose the kingdom he offers*