

God's Abundance

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Seventeenth sermon.

John 21:1-14

(20 minutes)

Theme: *"God provides abundantly for all our needs"*

Disciples dejected and disoriented – go fishing.
Man says throw net over other side – abundant provision of fish – recognise Jesus.
How? Recapitulation of J's call in the beginning (Luke 5:4-11).
Not the same incident utilised differently by different authors for different purposes.
What is the nature of this miracle? (1) abundant provision for (2) daily needs/food.
John's Gospel is replete with such miracles.

John 2, Jesus changes water into wine.
A very human need – embarrassment at your wedding.
Jesus creates an abundance – 6 jars of 75-115 litres – about 800 bottles – and the best!

John 6, Jesus feeds the 5,000.
Again, a human need – hunger.
He takes five loaves and 2 fish, and feeds 5,000 people
And the remains – 12 baskets!

J is intimately interested in our everyday lives – the little things.
Wants us to talk and share with him – the essence of prayer.
Many stories about J revolve around food – these miracles, the suppers, etc.

From the beginning, God has desired to provide for us: Gen 1:29-31.
Ps 90:14 = Moses prays for manna?? (Deut 8:3) (Ex 16:4)
Food not just there to keep us alive, but also there to provide pleasure. The promised land flows with milk and honey (Ex 3:8)

And J wants to bless us abundantly – "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). "Everyone who drinks this water [from the well] will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst" (John 4:13-14). "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

But let's also remember – the miracles (wine, bread, fish) point as signposts to the Kingdom.
Thus, they are also eschatological. Banquet imagery (Rev 19:7-9; Is 25:6).
Now, we have only a foretaste. There will still be suffering and need and want.
But one day, all our needs will be met and plentiful.

Spiritual food: Is 55:1-2.
Jesus is spiritual food – feast on him (Jn 6:35)
And when we eat/drink of him, it wells up to eternal life in us, a spring of living water (Jn 4:14).