

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

**Isaiah 55:11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

**Matt. 14:27** But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”<sup>28</sup> Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”<sup>29</sup> And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.



PODs in Review:

**1<sup>st</sup> POD: Faith takes the believer to where God wants him to be and enables the believer to do what God wants him to do (Matt 14:29).**

- > Peter stepped out of the boat by faith in the Lord.
- > Peter began to walk to the Lord on the water by faith in the Lord.

**2<sup>nd</sup> POD: Faith will enable the believer to begin fulfilling what God wants Him to do, but the believer must maintain his walk of faith.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> POD (New): When the believer considers the details in his walk to be greater than the Lord, the believer will begin to sink in his walk (Matt. 14:30).**

**Matt. 14:30** But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”

**4<sup>th</sup> POD (New): The believer must maintain his walk of faith to sustain him in the place God has brought him (Matt. 14:31).**

**5<sup>th</sup> POD: The believer maintains his walk of faith via prayer, dependence, and the application of Bible doctrine.**

**6<sup>th</sup> POD (New/Revised): The Lord is always faithful to restore the believer's walk –**

- > That is what He did with Peter, because they walked back to the boat together.

**6<sup>th</sup> POD (New/Revised): The Lord is always faithful to restore the believer's walk and teach the believer where he failed in that walk. (Matt. 14:31).**

**Matt. 14:31** Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

**7<sup>th</sup> POD (New): The believer must be malleable and turn to the Lord in dependence.**

**Matt. 14:30** - “Lord, save me!”

**Jeremiah 33:3** ‘Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

Just because you have doctrine does not mean you will get out of the boat – that you will walk by faith!

Peter learned a valuable lesson first hand, *experientially*.

Peter would not have learned unless he got out of the boat.

**8<sup>th</sup> POD: It is better to follow the Lord's will and fail than fail to follow.**

- > The best lessons are learned outside the boat.
- > You may get a little wet, but the Lord will not allow you to drown as a believer in Him.

We observed from our last class that the disciples failed to learn anything from the feeding of the 5000.

**Mark 6:52** for they had not gained any insight from the *incident* of the loaves,

However, they did learn something from the Lord walking on the water because when He and Peter returned to the boat - -

**Matt. 14:33** They “. . . worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God's Son!”

**POD (review / revised): We may not always have the spiritual insight into what the Lord is teaching us, [in Bible class or the classroom of life] but as long as we are consistent we will eventually learn.**

Consistency always pays off.

- The disciples' consistency with the Lord pays off because He teaches them the significance of the feeding of the 5000.

**John 6:21-40** So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. <sup>22</sup> The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea, saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but His disciples had gone away alone. <sup>23</sup> There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup> So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.

- Capernaum is the Lord's headquarters.
- The Lord based the entire ministry out of Capernaum.

## **POD: Nothing permanently hinders positive volition.**

Positive volition will always find a way because God honors positive volition.

- The crowd wants more *free* bread because they were satisfied.
  - Remember - the Lord fed them both physically and spiritually.
  - Spiritually through the doctrine He taught
  - Physically with the bread
- There's an interesting point here:
  - The Lord can put food on the table but that does not equate to being satisfied.
  - To be satisfied one has to eat.
  - Eating is non-meritorious and analogous to faith.
  - To be satisfied physically, one must eat what the Lord provides in grace.
  - To be satisfied spiritually, one must believe what the Lord provides in grace.

No one understands the significance of the miracle of feeding over 5000 except the Lord.

Now He's going to teach them in grace.

<sup>25</sup> When they [*multitude*] found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, [*teacher*] when did You get here?" <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly . . .

➤ Truly, truly - ἀμὴν ἀμὴν – AMEN AMEN – Point of Doctrine! Listen Up!

I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

- The Lord rebukes them.
- Although they are positive, their motivation is misplaced.
- They want another free meal.

It's important to understand that bread was a staple part of one's diet in the ancient world.

Everyone needed their daily bread.

The Lord provided bread for them in grace.

**Grace is not withheld from us because of our demerit.**

**Grace cannot be diminished because of demerit.**

<sup>27</sup> "Do not work for the food which perishes. . .

- Do not occupy yourself with things that do not have eternal value.
- Instead, be occupied with things that are of eternal value.
- How did they work for food that perishes? They sought after Him

. . . you **seek** Me, because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

➤ **Seek** – ζητέω – ZETEO - Incorporates intensity in the action of finding someone

Their motivation was physical bread.

Had it been the spiritual bread, they would not have been rebuked.

<sup>27</sup> “Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life. . .

Exhaust your effort, time, and energy in that which has eternal value.

Organize your life around “every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”

. . . which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

➤ He has just promised to give them eternal life if they work for the food which endures to eternal life.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore they said to Him, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?”

*What should we do to work for this food?*

➤ They want to do something to earn the bread that produces eternal life.

➤ The crowd did not earn the bread that the Lord created - they simply received it in grace.

➤ When the bread was served they ate it – that is why they were satisfied.

➤ If they understood that they received the bread in grace, they would know they could only receive eternal life in grace.

**Grace cannot incur a debt.**

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

➤ **Believe** – πιστεύω – PISTEUO – “to trust”

<sup>30</sup> So they said to Him, “What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? <sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.’ ”

<sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.”

Who came down from heaven?

The One the Father sent - - Jesus is the bread of Life.

<sup>34</sup> Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.”

➤ They are still thinking about physical bread and the Lord is using physical bread to teach them about spiritual bread.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life;

**POD: The Lord always clarifies things for those who are consistent and willing to be taught.**

. . . “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me [come to the Lord by faith] will not hunger [physically], and he who believes in Me will never thirst [spiritually].

He is talking about physical hunger and spiritual thirst.

**Psalm 37:25 (KJV)** I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

<sup>36</sup> “But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.”

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*