

John 6:1–15

The Power of People Watching

“People watching” has its ups and downs: the downside comes when we only see what we thought we would see before we started.

When we watch people with the view of God in mind, we often see things our old viewpoint never thought could ever be there.

Jesus’ question to Philip illustrates God’s care for our basic, daily needs when we are following him.

A. The Situation, 1–4

- A. A large number of people are now following Jesus because they saw what God had done in the lives of others (6:2)
- B. In the previous chapter Jesus was in Jerusalem in the south and is now on the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee farther north. (6:3) **[Photo]**
- C. The first Pilgrimage Festival of the year is close at hand (6:4)

B. Jesus’ Action, 5–10a

- A. Jesus lifts up his eyes (6:5a)
 - A. Often used of prayer - lifting eyes to heaven (John 11:41, **Read 17:1**, Luke 18:13, Acts 7:55)
 - B. Used in John 4 by Jesus to instruct his disciples (**Read John 4: 35**)
- B. Jesus sees the crowd coming toward him now that he is seated (6:5b)
 - A. Luke 6:17–20
- C. Jesus enlists two close followers from the area to address the need he identifies (6:5c–9)

C. The Provision and Response, 10b–15

- A. Jesus took what was provided him and gave thanks for the provision before using it (6:11)
- B. The crowd of people ate “as much as they wanted.” (6:11c)

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- A. Represents the total involvement of the individuals. (Matthew 7:12, Mark 9:13, 1 Corinthians 7:39, Galatians 6:12)
- C. The people “saw” the work of God and proclaimed Jesus to be the Prophet to come into the world. (6:14)
 - A. They “saw” in the sense of perceiving, understanding, recognizing the significance of what just happened. Literally, “to see with the mind’s eye”
- D. Jesus “saw” and withdrew so the crowd would not disrupt God’s activity in the world (6:15)
 - A. Jesus “saw” in the sense of knowing by reflection or by observation. He showed discernment.

Jesus’ can open our eyes to the people around us

A. Recognize the Situation

- A. Do you “lift up your eyes” in order to see what God sees?
- B. What solution do you devise to deflect or resolve your new awareness?

B. Take Action

- A. Involve those who are closest to the situation in the process
- B. Become aware of the resources God has already provided
- C. Be thankful for God’s provision, pray for these resources, and share with those in need

C. What should our expectation be for God’s Provision?

- A. Jesus can provide us “as much as we want.”
 - A. Isaiah 55:10-11 **[On Screen]**
- B. Don’t let what God provides for us be disregarded and wasted

D. What might our response be?

- A. 14– We try to make God fulfill our personal expectations
- B. 15– We begin to wonder why God isn’t working a miracle/sign for us everyday
- C. 16– We go about our business without waiting for Jesus

Where do you fit into this story?

- **Are you, like the crowd, seeking only to have “as much as you desire”?**
- **Are you, like Philip, doubtful that anyone could meet the needs you see around you?share**
- **Are you like, Andrew, bringing to God the resource someone else shared with you to meet the needs you see around you?**
- **Are you unaware of the needs around you because your eyes are never lifted up?**

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Sea of Galilee

As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth

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and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

IS 55:10-11 (NIV)