

## 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)