PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Is There Going To Be A Test?

OK – please close your eyes if you would…

- *Imagine yourself living in Judea 2,000 years ago*
- ***Some of you** have dedicated yourselves to follow Jesus*
- ***Some of you** are in the crowds who show up wherever He is*

……

*You heard **John the Baptizer** say Jesus is the Christ*

- *Some of you were at a wedding where He turned a huge amount of water into wine… **for real!***
- *Some of you were in Jerusalem when **He trashed the worship sacrifice business** in the temple!*
- *You heard Him claim it was **His Father's house***

……

Some of you followed Him into Samaria, of all places

- *You left Him to rest by a well when you went into town for food*
- *You returned to find Him **alone** in deep conversation **with a Samaritan woman***
- ***This is all wrong**, and when you showed up she ran off*

……

*You encourage Him to eat, and He tells you He already did… **food you can't see***

- *Then He starts talking about **farming and fruit***
- *Meanwhile, **her whole town** comes out and is fascinated by what He says*
- *He agrees to stay a few days, and **most of them become believers** in Him*

……

*Back in Cana again, a nobleman begs Him to **come to Capernaum** to heal his son*

- *Jesus hears him, and **tells him to go home**, his son is healed*
- *At home he learns his son was healed **at the time Jesus said so***

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*During a feast in Jerusalem, Jesus goes **into the temple** and finds a man **crippled for 38 years***

- *He askes him if he wants to be well, then tells him to **pick his bed** and walk away. **He does!***
- *What are you thinking about **who Jesus is?***

……

*This happens **on the Sabbath**, and the Jews come unglued…*

- *First with the newly **healed guy** for carrying his bed, then **with Jesus** for healing him!*
- *Both are **violations of their religious law**; far more important than healing*
- *The Jews **impose** their authority. Jesus **demonstrates** His*

……

*Jesus says He is just doing what **God, His Father** does…*

- *And the Jews realize **they need to kill Him** for that*

……

*Jesus evaluates what **the Word of God** and **the law** say*

- *Exposing their ignorance, and/or hypocrisy*
- *He says **they'll be judged by Moses** for their faults, not by Him*
- *You can imagine how well that was received.*

……

*So… **Jesus is revealing who God is***

- *You are walking around with Him*
- ***Is this who you expected God to be?***

……

***John 6:1-21**, Recounted in all four gospels.*

……

***Vs. 5**,* Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"

……

*Put yourself in Philip's shoes. **How does Christ's question land for you?***

- *Do you ever feel like you are faced with circumstances beyond your capacity?*
- *Do you think **it's the Lord who put you in that spot?***
- *Or do you rebuke the devil, and make your best plan?*

……

***Vs. 6**,* But this **He said to test him**, for **He** Himself **knew what He would do**.

- ***What** was Jesus testing?*
- *Might He be thinking, **do you remember the wine?***

……

Those of us who tend to naturally be problem solvers…

- *Do we think first, "What should I do about this?"*
- *Do we ever think, **"What do You want to do about this, Lord?"***
- *Or even, "Lord, what do **You want me to do** about this?"*

……

***Vs. 7**,* Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."

- *That may have been the amount they had on hand for traveling expenses*

……

*What if he would have said, "I'm pretty new at this, Lord. **What do You suggest**?"*

……

*John is revealing Jesus, and **Jesus is revealing God***

……

*Do life's trials prompt us to **ask God what He wants** to do?*

- ***Adam** & **Eve** were tested. **They didn't ask***
- ***Job** was tested, entrusted himself to God, and **it was still tough***
- ***Abe** was tested **several times** & **failed**, but He finally got it right*

……

***Moses was tested** & failed badly. After 40 years God gave him a fresh run at it*

- ***Romans 11:29**,* For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
- *This time he was tested many times, and did great every time*
- *Then he was tested **on the verge of the payoff**, and failed*

……

***Joseph the patriarch** was tested and consistently did very well*

- ***Joseph, betrothed to Mary** was tested and did well*
- *Then he had some help and did very well*

……

***Jesus was tested**… and He did very well!*

……

***Matthew 4:1**,* Then Jesus was **led up by the Spirit** into the wilderness **to be tempted by the devil**.

- *If you are **led by the Spirit**, what might He lead you into **following Jesus**?*

……

I Peter 1:6-7*,* In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been distressed by various trials, that **the genuineness of your faith**, being much more precious than gold that perishes, **though it is tested by fire**, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ

……

*Our faith **is in who He is**, regardless of what He does, or does not do*

……

*Being tested by God is **not an elective** in our discipleship curriculum*

- *God's testing is to reveal the glory, honor & praise of Christ Jesus*
- *Most of the tests are a **Pop Quiz**. No advance warning is offered*
- *The tests will reveal & develop the depth of our faith*

……

We don't know how long the pause was after Philip declared his reality, when…

- ***Vs. 8-9****,* One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, **but what are they among so many**?"
- *Not exactly a bold statement of faith, just an observation…*

……

Vs. 10-11*,* Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And **Jesus took the loaves**, and when He had given thanks **He distributed them to the disciples**, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, **as much as they wanted**.

……

Matthew *records it that Jesus said of the loaves & fish,* "Bring them to Me."

……

*Andrew had said to the Lord, and to himself… **what we have is not enough**.*

- *When we know we don't have enough for the test…*
- *We need to **bring it to Jesus**, and put it **in His hands***

……

God is leading PCF *into a major advance, and we know **we don't have enough***

- *But He has confirmed, in every way, we are following Him*

……

*So, we are proceeding **boldly in faith**, not for what we've determined*

- *But for **what He is calling us to***
- *We are affirming our faith in His leading by **fasting** & **prayer***

……

Vs. 12-13*,* So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. (as much as they wanted)

- *There will be **no garbage** in heaven*

……

Vs. 14*,* Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

……

*What is Jesus revealing about **who God is**?*

- *The wine, the loaves & fish*
- *Provision is **not His problem** in His will*

……

Lord*, what do **You want to do** about this?"*

- *What do You **want us to do** about it, **Lord**?"*

……

Matthew 6:9-11*,* In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.