



# EXALTING JESUS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

Mike Taylor

[www.TaylorNotes.Info](http://www.TaylorNotes.Info)



## PART 5: ARE YOU PUTTING GOD IN A BOX?



"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" (John 6:9)

If God isn't living up to our expectations, maybe it's time to change our expectations of Him.

We can't box God in, but we can box ourselves out. If God isn't living up to our expectations, maybe it's time to change our expectations of Him. God is not like anyone we've ever met.

## JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000

*"Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), <sup>2</sup> and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. <sup>4</sup> The Jewish Passover Festival was near. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" <sup>8</sup> Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, <sup>9</sup> "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). <sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. <sup>12</sup> When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten." (Jn. 6:1-13 NIV)*



## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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1. What do you suppose went through Philip's mind when Jesus asked him an impossible question "Where shall we buy bread for these (15,000 to 20,000) people to eat"?
2. Has there ever been a time in your life when you faced an impossible situation? Try to describe it. How did it work out?
3. How would you respond to someone who said, "I prayed and prayed about this problem I'm facing, and God hasn't answered. I think he's ignoring me."
4. Why is the development of our faith in God so important that he is willing to let us face difficult times? (Hint: see James 1:2-4).

## **FIVE WAYS WE PUT GOD IN A BOX**

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1. We put God in a box when we underestimate God's \_\_\_\_\_ (John 6:12-13; Mark 4:38-40).
2. We put God in a box when we feel that God is \_\_\_\_\_ in our problems and difficulties (John 6:5; Psalm 50:15; 86:7; 116:2).
3. We put God in a box when we fail to see God's care, his interest, and concern, over \_\_\_\_\_ that happens to a person (Matt. 6:26; 10:29-31).
4. We put God in a box when we look to \_\_\_\_\_ instead of looking to God and depending on him alone (Philip. 4:6-7).
5. We put God in a box when we fail to see that He is \_\_\_\_\_ when he meets our needs (Psalm 35:27b).

## **LESSON TAKE AWAY**

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What are some words and phrases you might use in your prayers to show that you are not "putting God in a box?"