

Before looking through this outline, I feel compelled to tell you that I struggled with many aspects of this text. I had a hard time deciding where to divide the chapter into two lessons. I did this because the chapter is so long, but the entirety of chapter 6 is actually a single literary unit.

Also I went through three different outline subjects as I studied the text. There is just so much information and teaching here that one could literally focus on many different aspects. I have decided to focus on Jesus' ability to provide and man's misunderstanding of what Jesus came to provide. But I realize that there is so much more in this text that could be outlined.

I. Jesus Demonstrates His Authority to Provide (6:1-15)

A. The Disciples Are Unsure Of Jesus' Ability to Provide (1-9)

1. Jesus Takes the Opportunity to Test his Disciple's Faith (1-6)

a. A large crowd follows Jesus during Passover (1-4)

i. The crowd followed Jesus because they saw the signs he was doing (our first hint that they were following for the wrong reason)

ii. Jesus went up to the mountain away from the crowd

iii. John tells us the Passover is at hand – these people were perhaps on their way to Jerusalem and were far from anywhere they could get food

b. Jesus asks Phillip How They will Feed the People (5)

i. Jesus saw the crowd and had compassion on them

ii. Jesus asks Phillip where they could buy bread for them

c. Jesus tests Phillip with this Question (6)

i. It seems that Jesus is focused on teaching Phillip and the disciples a lesson. Perhaps the feeding of the crowd was intended to teach his disciples something.

ii. My dilemma here is that the crowd will later be shown to be unbelievers. To teach about how Jesus provides through whatever we go through seems a little disingenuous because later Jesus strongly rebukes these same people for not believing in him.

iii. Notice that Jesus already knew what he was going to do.

2. Jesus Disciples are Uncertain about Jesus' Ability to Provide (7-9)

a. Phillip Doubts the Possibility of Providing (7)

i. Rather than speaking optimistically or trusting in Jesus' ability – Phillip says the task is impossible.

ii. Phillip's response is that even if they had 200 days wages, they could not feed all these people (a denarius was about a day's wage)

iii. Phillip is focusing on the problem not on the power of the one whom He follows

iv. Do we do the same thing?

b. Andrew Doubts but Brings What is Available (8-9)

i. Andrew brings a boy with 5 loaves and 2 fish

- He brings what he has

- It is commendable that he at least offers what he has

- Yet he still doubts saying, "what are they for so many?"

- It is as if he is also saying it is impossible but this is what we have to offer

B. Jesus Abundantly Provides for the Crowd (10-13)

1. Jesus has the Crowd sit Down (10)

a. There were 5000 men in the crowd

b. This means there may have been as many as 20,000 people in all

2. Jesus Gave Thanks and Distributed the Food (11)

a. Notice that the people took as much as they wanted

3. Jesus had 12 baskets of food left over (12-13)

a. All the people ate their fill from 5 loaves and 2 fish

b. The disciples gathered the leftover fragments

c. There were more than enough for each disciple after the people were fed – exactly 12 baskets

C. The Crowd Misunderstands Jesus' Mission of Provision (14-15)

1. The people perceived Jesus was THE prophet (14)

a. The people marveled over this sign

b. The people saw him as the prophet prophesied by Moses

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—" Deut. 18:15

2. The people attempt to make Jesus King by Force (15)

a. They want a political Messiah that can feed them forever

b. They did not want to actually submit to him as Messiah, they wanted one who would provide and satisfy them

c. Jesus understood this and removed himself – he will not be savior to those who don't come on his terms.

D. Jesus Provides for His Disciples in their Time of Need (16-21)

Note: Jesus refuses to provide for those who do not come on his terms, yet for his disciples who have trusted him with their lives, he appears when they need him and provides for them.

1. The Disciples are Afraid in the Storm (16-19)

a. The disciples depart in a boat without Jesus (16-17)

*note: don't read too much into them leaving without Jesus
Matt. 14:22 tells us Jesus commanded them to do so.*

b. The disciples experience a great storm (18)

c. The disciples fear as Jesus walks on the sea (19)

- i. First they rowed three or four miles trying to survive on their own
- ii. When they saw Jesus walking on the sea they became even more frightened.
- iii. Why were they scared to see Jesus walking to them on the water?

2. Jesus Provides Peace to the Disciples (20-21)

- a. Jesus Calms their fears (20)
 - i. Jesus tells them it is He – knowing it is Jesus calms them
 - ii. Knowing Jesus is with you calms our fear when we realize He is in control and provides for us
- b. Jesus brings them safely to their destination (21)
 - i. They received Jesus into the boat
 - ii. Immediately the boat landed at their destination
 - iii. Unlike the crowd who wanted their own Jesus, the disciples received Jesus
 - iv. Which Jesus do you want?

II. Jesus Didn't Come Only to Provide Earthly Satisfaction (22-36)

A. The Crowd Follows Jesus For Selfish Reasons (22-26)

- 1. The Crowd Followed Jesus (22-24)
 - a. The crowd realized that Jesus had gone (22)
 - b. The crowd followed Jesus to Capernaum (23-24)
- 2. The Crowd's Motivations are Selfish (25-26)
 - a. The crowd asks Jesus when he came there (25)
 - b. The crowd seeks to fill their bellies (26)
 - i. Notice that Jesus doesn't even answer their question about when he came to Capernaum
 - ii. Instead he tells them they are seeking him for the wrong reason.
 - iii. They don't want him because they see the signs of the Messiah and desire to trust and follow him
 - iv. They follow because they were filled with bread and want more
 - v. They want what Jesus can do for them, not Jesus himself

B. The Crowd Seeks Proof Before they will Believe (27-30)

- 1. Jesus Exhorts the Crowd to Believe in Him (27-29)
 - a. He says, Strive for eternal life rather than satisfaction (27)
 - i. Don't work for food that perishes (i.e. bread)
 - ii. For them food means life. All their work was to provide food. They are not like us who work to have things and be comfortable. If they didn't work they didn't get to eat.

- iii. Notice the words Jesus uses, “Work for the food...that the Son of Man will give to you” – how do you work for something that is a gift?
- b. The crowd inquires about how to work for God (28)
 - i. Jesus told them to work for the bread of eternal life
 - ii. They immediately ask what do we do to get this bread?
 - iii. What works to we do to benefit ourselves by working for God?
- c. Jesus says working God’s work is simply believing (29)
 - i. This is the work of God
 - ii. Believe on the one God sent
- 2. The Crowd Asks Jesus to do a work to prove his claim (30-31)
 - a. They want proof before they can believe (30)
 - i. Is this really faith?
 - ii. Proof nullifies faith. If something is proven you don’t need faith to believe it.
 - b. They suggest a way Jesus may prove his claim (31)
 - i. They compare him to Moses and the manna their fathers were fed in the desert.
 - ii. God provided food for Israel in Exodus
 - iii. The crowd here is revealing their true motive – they still want to be fed. They still want satisfaction and comfort rather than trusting in their Lord.
- 3. The Crowd Does Not Believe in Jesus (32-36)
 - a. Faith in Christ is the only Satisfaction (32-35)
 - i. Jesus Corrects their misunderstanding (32)
 - first of all, Moses didn’t give them the bread, it was God who did that
 - therefore, it is God who gives the true bread from heaven – Jesus himself
 - ii. Jesus is the Only Bread that truly Satisfies (33-35)
 - the bread of heaven is the one who came from heaven
 - this bread gives life to the world
 - The crowd immediately wants this bread, they still don’t understand. Jesus is saying he is the bread and they want him to give them the bread
 - iii. Jesus clarifies their misunderstanding
 - “whoever comes to me shall not hunger and whoever believes in me shall not thirst.”
 - He is the only true provision that satisfies
 - b. The Crowd Does Not Accept Jesus’ Words (36)
 - i. Jesus tells them that they see the bread of heaven standing before them
 - ii. Jesus tells them that they do not believe

The next part is part of the same section, but in the interest of time we will try to concentrate on this first part. In the next section, Jesus goes to great lengths to explain why they do not believe and points the way to salvation. In the end, they go away and do not believe and only the disciples are left.