

**Sermon Series:**  
**“Giving Your Life Away”**  
***He Gave to Meet Real Needs***

**Oct. 4, 2009**  
**John 6:1-15**

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## **Time in the Word**

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### **Read & Observe**

Take a moment to read through John 6:1-15. Getting at the “big idea” is always a challenge. So if you had to say—this is why this story is in the Gospels...what would you say? Did ya know that this is one of the only miracles found in all 4 Gospels?

### **Answer**

1. Setting the scene (John 6:1-4)
  - a. Do a little googling. Find an old map of the holy land, and get a geographical sense of where Jesus and the crowd are. Home base is on the northwest side of the lake in Capernaum. This story takes place “on the far shore”.
  - b. So why did this crowd journey all the way around the lake to be with Jesus? What were they expecting?
2. Let's focus on Philip. (John 6:5-7)
  - a. Obviously Jesus knows what He is about to do. So why does He engage Philip in this little dialogue?
  - b. If you are Philip, what is going through your mind?
3. The role of Andrew (John 6:8-9)
  - a. Check out the story of Andrew as seen in the Gospels—John 1:40-42, 6:5-7, 12:20-22). Every time you see this guy, what is he doing?
  - b. Why would Andrew bring this little boy? What did he think would happen?
4. Jesus and the miracle
  - a. The burning question, is why didn't Jesus just send these folks back home? Sure they would have been hungry, but so what?
  - b. In sight of everyone, Jesus takes this meager amount of food and blesses it (giving thanks), then gives it away. If you were in that crowd, what would that have been like?



## **Time for the Heart**

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Sometimes we miss the point. Jesus was not a magician out pulling bunnies out of hats. His miracles were miracles that met very real needs—healings, hunger, etc. In your life, what are the needs of others that God has put right in front of you? What would it take for you to reach out and meet a neighbor's need? What has held you back from stepping forward up to this point?



## **Time for my World**

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The church faces a world full of needs. As you think of our towns, our state, our country, and our world—what are the needs that really stand out to you which you think the church could focus on?