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The John Doe Syndrome

John 6:1-15 ¹After this, Jesus crossed to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias). ²A large crowd followed Him because they saw the signs He had performed on the sick. ³Then Jesus went up on the mountain and sat down with His disciples. ⁴Now the Jewish Feast of the Passover was near. ⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶But He was asking this to test him, for He knew what He was about to do. ⁷Philip answered, “Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to have a small piece.” ⁸One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, ⁹“Here is a boy with five barley loaves and two small fish. But what difference will these make among so many?” ¹⁰“Have the people sit down,” Jesus said. Now there was plenty of grass in that place, so the men sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves and the fish, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. ¹²And when everyone was full, He said to His disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over, so that nothing will be wasted.” ¹³So they collected them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that Jesus had performed, they began to say, “Truly this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” ¹⁵Then Jesus, realizing that they were about to come and make Him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by Himself. (NIV)

“Meet John Doe”

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A.** After performing many miracles in Jerusalem, Jesus leaves there and goes up on the side of a mountain. V.1-3
- B.** It was Passover season and many people had come to the area for this occasion. V.4
- C.** Jesus asked Philip if he knew where they could purchase enough food to feed the crowd. V. 5
- D.** Jesus had a plan in mind. V.6
- E.** Philip announced that it would take a lot of money to feed such a crowd. V.7
- F.** Andrew had rounded up a boy who had a small meal with him. V.8-9
- G.** Jesus instructed that the 5,000 men sit down on the grass. V.10
- H.** Jesus gave thanks, passed out the food and fed the entire crowd. V.11
- I.** The leftovers were collected and twelve baskets were filled. V.12-13
- J.** This miracle impressed them that Jesus was the Messiah who was to come. V.14

K. The crowd was going to force Jesus to be their king and so He left them to go to a secluded place. V.15

II. How can we apply this story to our life?

A. It is easy to forget what Christ has done for us in the past and end up without faith for the next challenge.

B. We need challenges to keep our faith fresh.

C. God already knows what He is going to do, but He still wants us active in the process.

D. Having faith and being prepared can co-exist. The boy who came prepared is proof of this.

E. Jesus didn't need to but even He prayed before He ate.

F. Signs and wonders are important in the work of God.

G. Expect humans to try to twist the work of God to their benefit.