**To Make Him King**

Based on [John 6:1-15](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Jn6.1-15)

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When Jesus was first driven out into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, he had been fasting for forty days and had no food. Satan urged him to turn stones into bread, since he was the Son of God. Jesus refused saying, “**Man does not live by bread alone…, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God**” But in today’s gospel, Jesus feeds five thousand men by *miraculously* multiplying five loaves of bread and two fish into enough to feed them all. Ironic--that Jesus would refuse to perform a miracle to feed himself, but here he works a miracle in order to feed the multitude.

No it is not ironic. There are two differences here, and they have to do 1) with the created order and 2) with the ministry of the messiah.

First, turning stones to bread is unnatural. When Jesus turns water into wine, it is *natural*. He doesn’t make wine out of sticks or stones. Wine is fermented grape water. Water is natural and essential to wine.

Much mythology and fairy tales contains unnatural, fanciful, magical stories about mermaids, pumpkin carriages, and towering beanstalks. ///Jesus is not a magician, neither is the Scripture a fairy tale. So when Jesus performs a miracle for a blind man, he doesn’t give him wings to fly, or supernatural vision, he gives the man’s eyes the natural ability to do what they were created to do, see.

Jesus’ miracles are restorative and supplementary of the created order. That’s why he wouldn’t do something so perverse as turn stones into bread. And that’s why, when he feeds the multitude, Jesus does not turn stones into bread. He doesn’t hocus pocus bread out of thin air. He takes five loaves and two fish that are already provided, and multiplies it into enough to feed five thousand men with leftovers.

Do you see? Jesus honors and respects his Father’s creation and works with it in a complementary fashion? **Man lives by God’s Word, and by the Word he created the heavens and the earth.** By the word he made them male and female, and by the word he made the man before the woman and by the word made them one flesh. By the word he created what we call “nature.” and created each animal according to it’s natural kind. To go against nature is called “perversion” and “abomination”. It is disrespectful of God’s design to say the least. Christ respects, upholds and compliments the natural order, even when doing miracles.

So understand this also: When Jesus combines water with his word in baptism, he uses what was created for cleansing, and uses it to wash away sins. When he combines his body to bread and his blood to wine, he uses what was created to sustain life, and uses it to sustain eternal life. The Sacraments are apropos. God *created* creation and called it good. It is fitting that he uses it to provide spiritual blessings also.

2) The other reason Jesus refused to miraculously feed himself, but did miraculously feed others is explained by his messianic mission. **The son of man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.**  The messiah would be king, this is true, but he must suffer and die for the sins of the world, before he can rise and be king.

After he fed the multitude. scripture says, “**Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him *by force* to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself**.” Their sin, was not that they wanted Jesus to be king, it’s that they resolved to make him king by force, meaning against God’s plan, before the way God ordained it, before the cross. Jesus says elsewhere, “**From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it *by force***” (Matthew 11:12).

Jesus is king right now, but his kingship is invisible. He rules all of creation right now, but does so invisibly. He is called “king of creation,” but secularists can simply ignore him. They can call his creation “evolution”, call his holding the universe together “gravity”; call his beginning a “bang”; and call his design an accident. And Jesus doesn’t show unbelievers his glory by force. Instead he invites them to believe what humble hearts will know to be true by faith.

He rules creation invisibly, he also rules his church invisibly. The church has many signs, and it works many miracles…but it’s gifts are invisible too. The grace and favor of God, the forgiveness and retention of sins, baptism and holy communion, called and ordained ministers, God rules through these things! But the faithless can call it superstition, and say the emperor is wearing no clothes. It would be satisfying, for Jesus to show his glory in ways apparent to the eyes, but he is pleased to reveal himself only to repentant and faithful hearts. This is what is meant by Luke 17: “**Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed. Nor will people say, ‘Here it is!” or ‘There!’ for behold, the kigdom of God is within you (in your midst).”** (Luke 17:20-21). Christ is already revealed as the King to believing hearts.

But the crowds wanted to force Christ to be King. They wanted him to feed their bellies, without changing their hearts. You know your savior, and you can tell others of Jesus, but you cannot make him visible by force. That’s what mega-churches try to do, think that they make Christ more visible with bigger buildings, successful ministries, a multitude of patrons and an embarrassment of worldly riches. They think gain is a means of Godliness. But you cannot use the glory of mammon and men to make Christ king. Some day he will rule the world by sight, but that is in God’s time, according to the way he has fore-ordered all things to happen. It is as Christ said to his apostles before he ascended to the Father…”**So when the apostles were with Jesus, they asked him, “Lord, will you restore the kingdom to Israel? as Christ has said, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons that the father has fixed by his own authority**” (Acts 1:6-7)

Christ multiplies the loaves for the masses. He does this to feed his people through the gifts of creation. He also does this to fulfill his messianic mission. **He came to suffer, die and rise again; and because he humbled himself, God exalted him to his right hand, where he now rules all things invisibly.** Some day he will be visible, faith will become sight, and the meek will inherit the earth. But that will not happen by force. As children of God, abide not in the anxiety of the times but in the peace of the word. Be patient, calm, and resolute. God has appointed a time for all things.

Many people’s love will grow cold waiting for Christ’s return, or believing he already rules the world visibly through *Churches that have sold their souls to the world*. **They will be eating and drinking, and merrymaking, only without sorrow for sins, without disciplining their flesh, and without renouncing the world…and the day of the Lord will surpise them like a thief in the night.** Do not force Christ to an earthly throne, and do not covet a premature return. You need not seize the kingdom for it is already within you. “Fear not little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”. Christ is already king by faith; on the Last Day God will make him king by force. Wait for it.