

## E-Series

### Lunch is Served



**1** After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. **2** A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. **3** Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. **4** Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. **5** When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" **6** He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. **7** Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." **8** One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, **9** "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

**10** Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. **11** Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." **13** So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. **14** When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." **—John 6:1-14**

For the past few days, we have been thinking about our lunch boxes. Inspired by this little boy in John, I hope that you have considered what you have in your lunch box and how you might be called by God to use it.

In John when Jesus receives the boy's five loaves and two fish, he gives thanks to God and *he* distributes it to the crowd. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all remember Jesus giving the bread to the disciples in order that they might distribute it to the crowd. Not in John. In John Jesus serves the crowd himself.

Another time in the Gospels Jesus says, "I did not come to be served but to serve..." Here in John, Jesus proves it. Like a waiter serving tables, Jesus serves this meal to the crowd.

That's ultimately what all this talk about lunch boxes is about—service. At Wightman UMC our purpose for existing is "to form faithful followers of Jesus." We do this in three ways: 1) Bringing, 2) Growing, and 3) Serving. One of the ways we live out our mission is by "serving God and our world in hands-on ways."

How do you use what's in your lunch box to serve God and our world? When people look at your life, do they see the spirit of Christ in you, the spirit of a servant-leader who was so humble that one time he even knelt down and washed the nasty feet of his followers? Once you figure out what gifts God has placed in your lunch box, will you take the next step of using those gifts to serve?

Looking in My Lunch Box,  
*Pastor Michael*

