



KK '19 DQT Devo: Monday/Thursday

"True Fish Stories"

Lesson Passages: Matthew 17:24-27 ; John 6:1-15



Lesson Focus: The children will learn that God can provide what we need even when there seems to be no way to obtain it.

Helping Study Passages: Matt. 14:13–21; Mark 6:31–44; Luke 9:11–17

Lesson Intro: Play the paper clip fishing game with the kids. Give a kid a minute to catch as many fish as they can. Tell them they have to catch a certain amount to win a prize. If they catch them all you will double it. Gauge your time and if you can have another contestant play feel free to do so. After the game ask them if any of them have ever been fishing. Ask them if any of them have ever caught any fish. Ask them if anyone has ever told them a story of the biggest fish they caught (*tell them your fish story if you have one*). It is true that sometimes our stories get a little out of hand of how big or how many fish we caught. But in the lesson today there is no exaggeration. The Bible lets us know many interesting and unbelievable fish stories that are true. Let us look at a couple of them.

Story Outline

- I. Peter asked for Tax Money. Matt. 17:24
- II. The Instruction to Obtain Tax Money. Matt. 17:25-27
- III. Jesus Presents the Problem. John 6:1-5
- IV. Disciples Panic at the Problem. John 6:6-9
- V. Jesus Provides. John 6:10-11
- VI. What Jesus Proved. John 6:12-15

Story Overview

In our first story Peter is asked to pay taxes. When he approaches Jesus to ask for the money Jesus already knew what Peter was about to ask. He gave Peter a very interesting and amazing instruction on how they would pay. He was to go fishing to literally find the money. But that was not the first time Peter had encountered a fishy situation. Sometime before that Jesus had commanded His disciples to feed a large crowd of people among who were 5,000 men. The disciples had nothing with them except five loaves of bread and two fish which they had scrounged up. Jesus gave simple instructions to follow. He then blessed it and asked that it be given out.

After he asked for the leftovers to be picked up. Peter had seen the Lord feed many with only five loaves of bread and only two fish.

Breaking down the Story

- **Story Introduction:** The first story seems rather randomly placed. Perhaps Matthew is the only one to note this story because he had once been a tax collector. In this case we see Him obeying the law in providing the payment for the temple tax for Him and Peter. The second story most likely happened before the temple tax story. The ministry of Jesus had begun and He had performed miracles that had caught the attention of the people. People began to notice that this was no regular rabbi. Because of the magnitude of the miracles, the people flocked to be where Jesus was. Perhaps many to see or obtain a miracle and others to hear the teachings of the One they had come to believe in as the Messiah. It is at this time when thousands had come to Jesus that sets up this second fish story.

- **Lead roles:** The lead roles in this story are Jesus, Peter, and His disciples. In the first story Peter is approached and questioned whether Jesus would pay His due temple tax. When Peter goes to Jesus about the matter Jesus already knew what Peter was about to ask. Jesus then gave Peter the way to go and get the money necessary to pay for both of their taxes. In the second story, Jesus received the crowd that came to Him as a shepherd embracing his sheep. Jesus taught and healed the people who had come to Him. But the time had passed and they were not in a populated place. There was nowhere around where food was available unless the people began to travel. The disciples then urged Jesus to dismiss the people so that they could go and buy something to eat. But Jesus asked them the reason why they could not give the people something to eat. This question seemed to baffle the disciples. Philip mentioned that even if they had 200 days worth of daily work pay they could not buy enough for the great multitude. Andrew set before Jesus the five loaves and two fish they had. Yet Andrew was convinced that it was not enough to feed such large crowd.
- **Supporting Cast:** The supporting cast of this story is the crowd. They had come to Jesus and Jesus had compassion on them. He had compassion on their need for healing. He had compassion on their need for teaching. Jesus cared so much for the crowd that He wanted them to have food. Jesus would miraculously fulfill this need.
- **Climax of the Story:** In the first story the climax is the amazing instruction Jesus gives about the temple tax. Peter was to go fishing for the money. No, Jesus was not instructing Peter to go catch fish and sell it. Jesus instructed Peter to go and catch a single fish. Once the fish was caught Peter was to open the mouth of the fish and find the money needed to pay for what they both owed as temple tax. In the second fish story the climax comes when Jesus asks Andrew to bring Him the five loaves and two fish. Jesus then instructed the disciples to have them sit in groups. He blessed it and gave thanks and then ordered that it be distributed. Five loaves of bread and only two fish were to be passed out among 5,000 men not counting women or children. The disciples obeyed the command of the Lord.
- **Conclusion of the Story:** In the first story Jesus had given a bizarre instruction. But it was out of a fish that Jesus provided for the payment of their temple tax. It was something only Jesus could accomplish and do through His great power. In the second story the conclusion is just as impressive as the climax. The five loaves and two fish were distributed to the 5,000 plus people and they ate. Not only does the Bible say that they ate, but it says that they were satisfied. Even more impressive is when Jesus commanded His disciples to collect the leftovers. There were twelve baskets left of leftovers from the five loaves and two fish.

Lesson Conclusion: In both of these fish stories, the power of God is displayed. Jesus provided the necessary payment for temple tax in a miraculous way, by fishing. Jesus provided food for over 5,000 people with His mighty power and He used only five loaves and two fish. The disciples thought that there was not a way to feed them, but Jesus showed that He is the way where there seems to be no way. God can provide what we need even when what we need seems like something that cannot happen. One day we were lost in sin, separated from God, and deserved an eternal punishment. There was no way for us to pay or sin on our own. But Jesus came and provided the perfect sacrifice for our sin on the cross, was buried, and rose the third day. He has provided salvation for us where there seemed to be no way.