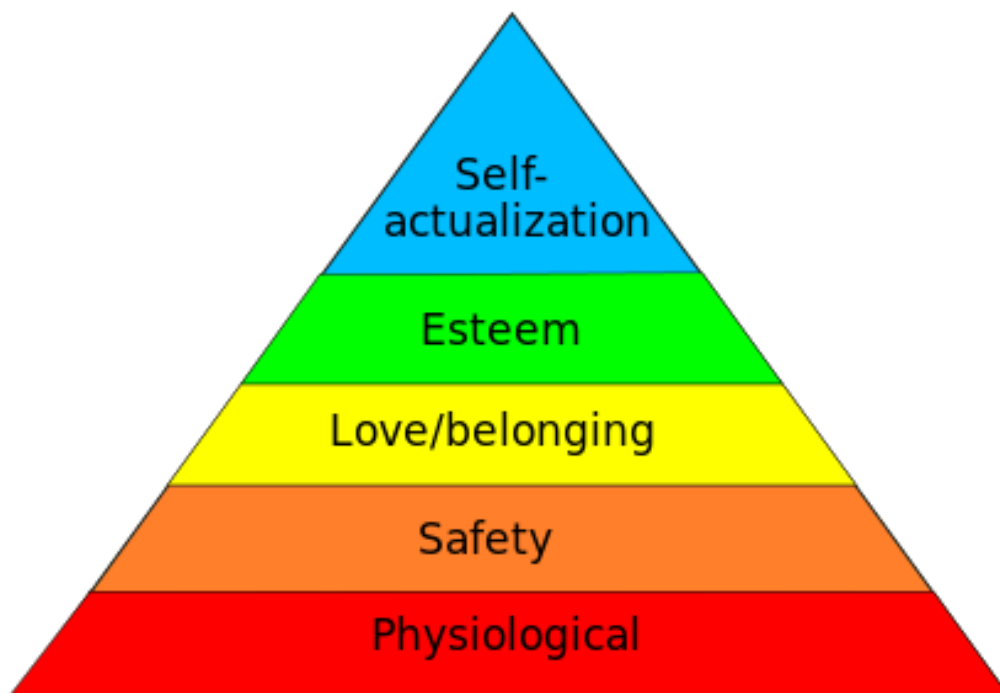


This manuscript is a Summary, for a full expression of this sermon please download the audio file.

John 6:1-15- Jesus feeds the five thousand

Maslow's Hierachy of Needs



for more

see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maslow%27s_hierarchy_of_needs

A famous model for explaining human interaction is “Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs”, it argues that when a certain human need is not met, people become unable to perform above a certain parameter. For example, if Physiological needs are "the physical requirements for human survival." If these requirements are not met, the human body cannot function properly and will ultimately fail. Physiological needs are thought to be the most important; they should be met first. These include air, water, and food are

metabolic requirements for survival in all animals, including humans. Clothing and shelter provide necessary protection from the elements.

Safety and Security needs include:

- * Personal security
- * Financial security
- * Health and well-being
- * Safety net against accidents/illness and their adverse impacts

Until the base need is met, we cannot function at the higher level.

The model explains that certain things in life are definite "needs."

Needs vs. Wants

The Engagement Ring

Conversely, some things are not needs, but wants, an item not necessary for life or survival but desirable by an individual or group. In marketing, it is the aim of those who try to persuade, is to move us from thinking about our "wants" as "needs", with this basis in place, we will purchase or act in the manner a marketer desires. One example is from the 1930-40's where De Beers a diamond seller desired to see more diamonds sold; they hired ad agency N.W. Ayer who executed "a brilliant, multifaceted marketing strategy." "According to New York Times, N.W. Ayer's game plan was to "create a situation where almost every person pledging marriage feels compelled to acquire a diamond engagement ring." They convinced the world that "A diamond is forever", the result was a 40% increase in sales during a time of depression and war, and the now accepted practice of all newly engaged women receiving a diamond ring.

for more see <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/diamond-de-beers-marketing-campaign#sm.000086d3fos3nfgjxqw1o38qfgzkz>

This manipulation can be seen as far back as the Garden of Eden, where God encourages us to see the world through his word, and trust in him, to realise that we need him, yet Satan sets about persuading Adam and Eve that they “want” something else, in this case, “knowledge of Good and Evil”

The background concepts

We now move to the recording by John of “The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 which is the only sign recorded in all four Gospels (besides Jesus’ resurrection). This fact alone points to its importance”-Edwin A. Blum,

To understand the spiritual battle taking place, we need to grasp the background mentality of those recorded in this event.

Within the Jewish mindset, “ Some have seen in this detail an allusion to the miraculous feeding reported in 2 Kings 4:42–44: Jesus is a prophet greater than Elijah or Elisha.”- D. A. Carson

The promise of a Messiah, to add to this the Jewish nation was always looking for the promised Messiah and were attempting to discern if Jesus was the one they were looking for, the issue was not that wanted to find the Messiah, the issue was the type of Messiah they wanted to find!

Moses and the Mountain

Interestingly, “The mention of the hillside or “the mountain” (nasb) may indicate an intended parallel to Moses’ experience on Mount Sinai (cf. vv. 31–32). The notice that the Jewish Passover feast was near is theological and only secondarily chronological.”- Edwin A. Blum

The Passover

“Although this is the second of three Passovers mentioned by John (cf. 2:13, 23; 11:55ff.), his reason for including this aside is not so much chronological as theological. The Jewish Passover celebrated the exodus from Egypt. Intrinsic to the celebration was the slaughter of a lamb in each household, which then ate it. In this Gospel, Jesus is the Lamb of God (1:29, 36). The first Passover to

be mentioned (2:13, 23) is in the context of Jesus' self-designation as the temple that would have to be destroyed—a way of pointing to his death”— D. A. Carson, the second Passover becomes a time when Jesus starts to link the eating and drinking of his body and blood to the feast. We must understand "At the same time, the Passover Feast was to Palestinian Jews what the Fourth of July is to Americans, It was a rallying point for intense, nationalistic zeal. This goes some way to explaining the fervour that tried to force Jesus to become king”— D. A. Carson

What takes place

Jesus is trying to find the time and place to have some teaching with the disciples, yet his popularity leads the local people to mass round him, seeing them approach Jesus asks Philip's opinion "In this instance Philip was the obvious person to ask: he came from the nearby town of Bethsaida (1:44).”— D.A. Carson, "The answer to Jesus' question was that it was impossible, humanly speaking, for thousands of people to get bread late in the day from the little neighbouring villages. John wrote as he thought back on the incident, that Jesus was asking this to test Philip. God tests people to refine their faith, never to tempt them to do evil (cf. Gen. 22:1–18; James 1:2, 13–15; 1 Peter 1:7).”— Edwin A. Blum

"Philip's response betrays the fact that he can think only at the level of the marketplace, the natural world. One denarius was a day's pay for a common labourer; two hundred denarii (also specified at Mk. 6:37) therefore represents eight months' wages (NIV). Since a substantial proportion of a worker's wage went into daily food, this was, presumably, enough to provide for a family for eight months or a little longer. But the crowd was so large (v. 10) that even such a large sum of money would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" D. A. Carson

Andrew at least thinks proactively and brings the meter offering before Jesus, "The 'small fish' (opsaria) were probably pickled fish to be eaten as a side dish with the small cakes (scarcely 'loaves') of barley bread, Andrew's point, of course, was that this tiny meal was ludicrously inadequate to the need. John mentions it to heighten the miracle. Andrew's contribution is to introduce a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish (v. 9). Only the

Fourth Gospel specifies that these were barley loaves, the inexpensive bread of the poorer classes. Despite the size of the crowd, Jesus proceeds in an orderly fashion, seating the people in preparation for the meal. Mark 6:39–40 mentions that they ‘sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties’, and that the grass was ‘green’—another personal recollection of detail, and confirmation that the event took place in March or April (i.e. near Passover) when the grass is still green, before the hot summer sun burns it brown.”-D. A. Carson

We note that Jesus ‘blesses’ God, i.e. he thanks God; he does not ‘bless’ the food.

The Spiritual battle, (Legion)

III- placing clothing (false burdens) upon Jesus

It is now that the spiritual battle starts to reach its’ height. In other gospels, the confrontation between Jesus and Satan was over bread, and here Satan uses this issue to force a point, while “The people saw His sign, but they did not perceive its meaning. They wanted to seize Him and make Him King. This marks the highpoint of Jesus’ popularity and a great temptation for Him. Could He have the kingdom without the Cross? No. Jesus’ kingdom would be given to Him by the Father (cf. Ps. 2:7–12; Dan. 7:13–14). It will not come from this world (John 18:36). The path of the Father’s will lies in another direction. Before He can be the reigning Lion of Judah, He must be the Lamb who bears the sin of the world (1:29).” - Edwin A. Blum

The people "Can't see the wood for the trees.", In their minds "The desires of this crowd do not constitute evidence for a well-formulated theological structure. Rather, they had witnessed or heard of Jesus’ miracles of healing, and they had been fed from food provided by his miraculous power. Surely nothing could prevent such a person from being the powerful liberator that so many children of Israel longed for. And if he was unwilling to assume the prerogatives and responsibilities of such leadership, they were more than willing to force the issue by fomenting a rebellion, crowning him king and daring the authorities to respond—thus forcing him to assume the mantle they had in mind for him.”- D. A. Carson

Jesus shows who he is, allows us to see the God we need, not the God we want. It is worth noting that Jesus shows who he is in what he does (provide for all the people to eat), and what he doesn't do, (Jesus chooses not to take the 5000 men and turn them into a fighting force, a legion) thus, Jesus, is God is what he does, and the God in what he doesn't do.

Seeing the temperament of the crowd, Jesus Withdrawals (also translates as Flee) from the enemies attacks, He refuses to further partake in exciting the crowd or to be used for their purpose, as “ A king is one who rules, not is ruled by others. But the men and women who participated in the miracle of the loaves and the fish were determined to use Jesus; they had no desire to obey Him. Jesus, knowing their motives, slipped away.”- Larry Richards

We can get caught up with trying to satisfy wants and not needs, further, we can falsely perceive our needs. WE must not simply be satisfied with the physical, Maslow misses the point!, there is a spiritual element which transcends all, if that is not satisfied, nothing else has meaning anyway.

Testimony of those who have nothing

It is often the testimony of those who have nothing (that is no material blessings), who find themselves most at peace with the work of God in their life, this at east should warn us to seek beyond what we know, to seek the God we need not the God we want!

Challenge-

Which Jesus are we looking for? are we prepared to give up the Jesus we want, for the Jesus we need?

"This is a good lesson for us: instead of complaining about what we do not have, we should give thanks to God for what we do have, and He will make it go farther."

Warren W. Wiersbe

"The practical lesson is clear: whenever there is a need, give all that you have to Jesus and let Him do the rest. Begin with what you have, but be sure you give it all to Him." Warren W. Wiersbe

Are we willing to give up our wants in favour of letting Jesus be the messiah we need, are we willing to understand surrender?

Prayer of Surrender- "Surrender is not about "giving up", it's about "letting Go"