

John 6:1–15

The Value of Being Quizzed by Jesus

Being “tested” or “tried” is an experience we prefer to avoid when we can.

Yet, Testing is a time honored practice, especially for important aspects of life.

Would you cross a bridge that had not been tested?

Swing on a rope across a deep gully?

Buy an expensive gemstone off a street corner?

Jesus often brings us tests; but never to cause us to stumble. Testing comes to show us our need to depend on him – on him alone – if we are to find solutions in times of testing.

Testing comes as the events of life happen. Consequences from bad decisions or choices to disobey the teachings of Jesus don't count as times of testing. Yet, God is present to help in those moments as well.

A. Jesus' Question, 5

A. Where might we purchase bread so these people might eat?

B. Jesus' Intention, 6

A. Jesus already knows what he is about to do.

C. The Context Behind Jesus' Question

A. Food and “testing” are found together in Matthew 4: 3

B. The first words spoken by Jesus in Matthew following his baptism are related to the necessity of Bread. “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

A. These words are from Scripture. (**Deuteronomy 8:1–3**)

C. “Testing” can be approached from two distinct viewpoints.

A. It can seek to trip or break (Matthew 22:15–22, **15, 18**)

B. It can seek to validate or confirm (2 Corinthians 13:1–10, **5, 6**)

D. The Practice 7–9

- A. What is your “spiritual mettle”? (a person's ability to cope well with difficulties or to face a demanding situation in a spirited and resilient way)
- B. Which resource do you rely on when Jesus gives you a quiz?
 - A. Philip turned to human resources in this time of testing (**6:7**)
 - A. Philip’s earlier confession: “We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the Law and the Prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph from Nazareth.” 1:45
 - B. Andrew turned to a different resource: Encounters with the living God (**6:8–9**)
 - A. His Own
 - A. Andrew’s earlier confession: “We have found the Messiah,” 1:41
 - B. Cana: Water became Wine 2:7–8
 - C. Samaria: But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” 4:32
 - B. Those his community shared
 - A. Elijah and Elisha: 1 Kings 17:11–16; **2 Kings 4: 1–7**

E. The Lesson

- A. *What resources are you storing up in your life to prepare for God’s time of testing your mettle?*
 - A. Human expectations about the human Jesus?
 - B. Scriptural expectations about the divine Jesus, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?
 - C. Personal and community experiences with God’s powerful provision?
- B. *Where will you turn when God quizzes you if you have not lived a life of preparation?*
 - A. Pay attention to the way God has worked in the past, both in your life and in others’s lives
 - B. Be prepared to give back to God what God has already made available to you