

LITTLE IS MUCH WHEN GOD IS IN IT

John 6:1-14 The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes

9 December 2022

INTRODUCTION: God can work miracles. We cannot. But if we will always remember to look to God and include Him in all of our spiritual endeavors, we'll be able to accomplish so much more with much less stress and struggle as we labor to further the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that the Lord will give you the same heart for hungry souls that He demonstrated among this crowd in the wilderness.

THE COMPASSION OF JESUS FOR THE MULTITUDES

Jesus looked out and saw all the hungry people and He had compassion on them. The scriptures document many times where Jesus demonstrated a great care and love for people.

Matthew 14:15 The disciples' solution to the lack of food for the multitude was to send them away. But Jesus saw the need of the people and planned to meet that need.

Mark 6:34 Jesus saw the people as sheep having no shepherd and was moved with compassion.

- How's your heart? When you see the multitudes around you, do you consider their eternal destiny? Do you see their need and give them the spiritual food that will meet that need?

A STUDY IN THE LORD'S COMPASSION

Matthew 9:36-38 Jesus Christ's compassion for the multitudes moved Him to instruct the disciples to **pray** for them.

Matthew 14:14 Jesus' compassion for the people here moved Him to **heal** their sick.

Mark 6:34 Jesus' compassion for these straying sheep moved Him to **teach** them many things.

Mark 8:2 Jesus' compassion for these people is going to move Him to **feed** them.

Luke 7:12-15 Jesus had compassion for a widow in Nain whose son had died. He raised him up.

THE CONFERENCE BETWEEN JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES.

Jesus used the feeding of the multitude as an opportunity to teach and train His disciples so that they would be equipped to go out and continue to minister to the multitudes after His departure.

LESSON NUMBER ONE: WE'RE RESPONSIBLE (John 6:5-6)

"He saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" Jesus lets the disciples know that they have an obligation to the multitude.

- Christians have an obligation to reach out to the lost (2 Tim 4:2), to help new believers to grow in the Lord (Rom 12:6-8, 2 Tim 2:4-5), to comfort the feeble minded, and support the weak (1 Thess 5:14).
 - **Romans 1:14-16** Paul said, "I am debtor!" He knew that he owed it to Jesus Christ to take the gospel to all the lost, both Jew and Gentile. Every Christian has that same debt.
 - We need to maintain a close relationship to the Lord to stay stirred up and refreshed and revived so that we always have compassion for the lost and continue to reach out to them.
 - Consistent fellowship in a Christ-centered church is essential to stay stirred up for the things of God.
-

LESSON NUMBER TWO: YOU CAN'T DO IT ON YOUR OWN (John 6:7)

Philip did the math and figured out that it would be impossible for mere men to feed so many people. Did he forget that Jesus was not a mere man?

- We must not decide what is possible or impossible based on the material realm alone. Don't forget what God can do through you.
-

LESSON NUMBER THREE: THE LORD CAN DO IT (John 6:8-9)

No matter how unlikely or far-fetched something seemed, Andrew took it to Jesus, believing that the Lord could do the impossible. Andrew was often bringing people to Jesus: **"There is a lad here..."** **"Sir, we would see Jesus..."** (John 12:21-22), **"And he brought him to Jesus."** (Jn 1:40-42).

- We must learn to bring our difficult or impossible challenges to the Lord Jesus Christ. Just because we can't do something doesn't mean it can't be done.
 - Jesus already has the solution to your problems. He's just waiting for you to bring it to Him.
-

THE COMPLETION OF THE MIRACLE (John 6:10-11)

"And when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples...as much as they would"

Believers have a part in the Lord's work. But there is always a part that only the Lord can do.

The Example of the Raising of Lazarus

- Jesus instructed **men** to take away the stone from the tomb of Lazarus before he was resurrected (John 11:39).
- Jesus instructed **men** to remove the grave cloths from Lazarus after he came out of the tomb (John 11:44).
- But only **Jesus** could call Lazarus forth from the dead (John 11:43).

The Example of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes

- Jesus had the disciples sit the people down in groups on the grass (John 6:10).
- Jesus had the disciples distribute the food to the people (vs 11).
- But Jesus broke the bread Himself and caused the food to multiply (Vs 11; Mt 15:19).
 - We must do our part and allow the Lord to do His part. Don't try to do the Lord's part. Don't expect the Lord to do what you are able to do.
 - You are responsible to give people the truth of God. The Lord is responsible to bring their heart under conviction. He is the Savior. Jesus saves. Men can't save anybody.
 - We can guide people to the Lord, but only He can change their lives for the better (sanctification).

The Lord Works Through Us by Multiplication

- The loaves and fishes were multiplied from a very few to enough to feed a multitude.
- Discipleship works through multiplication. You teach a few until they also are able to teach a few. Eventually, millions of disciples are serving, teaching, and witnessing, but it began with a few.

Be willing to Give to the Lord's Work and the Return will be Tremendous

"They gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments ..."

The Lad happily gave to the Lord. The Lord used that offering for a mighty work. What a blessing! (**Lk 6:38**)
