

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

Faith for the Impossible, John 6:1-13

Jesus Sees the Need

John 6:1-13 (KJV) ¹ After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias. ² And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. ³ And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. ⁴ And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

- Jesus had been ministering for quite a while in Galilee, teaching, and healing
- There were multitudes of people are following Jesus on foot
- Jesus saw all the people, and He was concerned about their physical needs
- The people had been following Jesus for days and they were probably running low on food
- The people *needed* food, without food, the people following Jesus could become ill or even starve
- Jesus sees our needs even before we have a need

The Disciples Need Faith

⁵ When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

⁶ And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

⁷ Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, ⁹ There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

- Jesus looks over the countryside and sees literally thousands of hungry people
- Jesus says these people need to be fed
- Jesus asks His disciple, Philip, “Where can we go to buy bread to feed these people?”
- Jesus asks Philip this question *to test him* to see how he would respond; Jesus *already knew* what He was going to do
- Philip answers and says, **“Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not enough for so many people, that every one of them may take a little.”**
- Philip’s answer is an example of *pessimistic faith*
- Philip said we don’t have the money and even if we did have the money, it would be “impossible” to buy enough bread for everyone to get “a little”
- The question Jesus asked was *where* to find bread, not “how much” does bread cost?

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- We profess our belief in God and the power of God, but when a need or problem arises, we only see “the problem” and *not the power* of God
- Philip seems to have forgotten what he has *personally seen Jesus do* in the past
- We all have personal testimonies of what God has done in the past, but we seem to forget them when big problems arise
- Philip seemed to be saying to Jesus, even if we had 6 month’s wages, it still wouldn’t be enough; Jesus this problem is *too big* for You
- We can have faith for easy things, but we sometimes struggle in our faith in tough situations
- Based on Philip’s “calculations”, it’s “impossible” to feed all these people
- When our faith is reduced to a calculation, we’re putting “limits” on what Jesus can do
- Another disciple named Andrew, Peter’s brother, does a little better, he goes among the crowd to search for food
- Andrew says he has found young boy with 5 *barley* loaves and two *small* fishes
- Andrew gets the food, but he *immediately* raises “questions” about the food he found
- Look at how Andrew describes the food, 5 “barley” loaves and 2 “small” fishes:
- Then Andrew complains about the food he found, “What is “this” among so many?”
- Andrew has faith, but it’s a *questioning faith*
- We can be that way, sometimes God has provided, but we are not satisfied with *what* He has provided or the quality of His provision
- Questioning faith “questions” God’s ability instead of *believing* that God can handle our problem
- Regardless of what the problem is, (health, finances, deliverance of a habit, etc.), we must trust God and to question or doubt His love, care wisdom and power

Jesus’ Faith: He Blesses What Has

¹⁰ And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. ¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

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- The first thing Jesus does is Jesus makes everyone sit down in a large grassy area, there were about 5,000 men there, not including the women and children
- Jesus *takes* the loaves
- Jesus looked toward heaven and gave thanks to God
- Jesus was appreciative of what He had, lifting it up to God and trusting God that it would meet the need of the moment
- All Jesus did bless and distribute what was in *His hands* and trust God
- Jesus *distributed* the fish and loaves to the disciples
- The *miracle* was in the *hands of Jesus*, not in the *distribution*
- Every time Jesus broke off a piece of bread and fish, more materialized
- Jesus was doing the *multiplying* and the disciples were doing the *servicing* of the people
- When we put what have in the hands of the Lord, He will multiply it

Gather Up the Fragments

¹² When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. ¹³ Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

Jesus didn't just feed the people and move on

- Jesus tells the disciples to gather up of the *fragments*, the pieces of bread leftovers, so that nothing is wasted
- The word *fragments* here don't mean "scraps or partially eaten food", but the fragments are the broken portions of bread that Jesus miraculously created and distributed to the disciples
- There's more to Jesus saying gather up the fragments so that nothing is wasted
- Jesus wanted the disciples to gather up all the fragments so that what they *experienced* from this miracle would not be wasted
 - When Jesus performs a miracle in your life, what happened to your faith?
 - Are still carrying your *basket of memories* from your last miracle?
 - When you face your *next* impossible situation will you have "pessimistic faith", "questioning faith", or *complete faith* in the power of Jesus?
 - Jesus cares about you and your everyday needs
- Have faith that Jesus can meet your needs, even when it "looks" impossible ***Luke 1:37 (KJV) For with God nothing shall be impossible.***