

## The Feeding of the 5,000 Part #2 (10/11/09)

### I. Please turn with me to the Gospel of John, this morning, we are going to begin our study by reading \*John 6:1-14\*

- a. In John Chapter 6, we find recorded for us the “Feeding of the Five Thousand” – a very popular/well-known miracle performed by Christ
- i. Now, of all the miracles that Jesus performed, the “Feeding of the Five Thousand” has great prominence in the gospels
  - ii. You see, this is the only miracle, other than Jesus’ resurrection, that is mentioned in all four Gospels
  - iii. If the Bible mentions something once, it is true, but if the Bible mentions something more than once, it is important
  - iv. It is not by coincidence that the Holy Spirit recorded this miracle on four separate occasions, but through this miracle, He wants to teach us many things...
  - v. And last week, we began studying this miracle performed by Christ, and we looked at “*three things*” found in this section of Scripture:
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> – “The Compassion of Christ”
- i. Although John does not mention it, Mathew and Mark tell us that as Jesus saw the multitudes He was *moved with compassion* for them
  - ii. Throughout His ministry, the Lord always showed indescribable compassion for the people, and often times, His compassion motivated Him to minister to the needs of the people
  - iii. Jesus was always willing to help those in need and in distress, and today, He wants to continue His ministry of compassion through us...
  - iv. As the church of Jesus Christ, we have been called to a ministry of compassion – “*Allow God to use you as an instrument of compassion*”
- c. 2<sup>nd</sup> – “The Testing of Philip”
- i. As Jesus saw the multitude approaching Him, John tells us that Jesus went to Philip

and asked him where they were going to buy bread for all the people could eat (Vs. 5-6)

ii. Now, Jesus already knew what He was going to do, but John tells us that Jesus asked Philip this question because He was testing him i.e. **testing his faith – “Not *information, but education*”**

iii. Like Philip, as a Christian, you will go through times of testing, but take courage, the testing is for your benefit and advantage

iv. Through times of testing, God teaches us many valuable lessons and brings us into a deeper relationship with Him...

d. 3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Ministry of Andrew”

i. As Jesus was talking to Philip, Andrew noticed a small boy who had a small lunch, and immediately, Andrew brought the boy to Jesus (vs. 8-9)

ii. Andrew had a beautiful ministry of bringing people to Jesus, everywhere he went, he simply wanted to bring someone to Jesus...

iii. The greatest ministry you can have, and the greatest service you can offer, is bringing people to Jesus

iv. Our lives should serve as one big sign-pointing people in the direction of the Savior – “*He is what they are looking for!*”

e. Now, this morning, we are going to continue our study on the “Feeding of the Five Thousand” and look at “three more things” found in our text:

II. 4<sup>th</sup> – “The Offering of the Young Boy”

a. In verse 9, we read, “There is a lad here who has five barely loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?”

i. As Jesus was talking to Philip, John tells us that Andrew brought a young boy to Jesus...

ii. The young boy had a small lunch, five barley loaves and two small fish, and he wanted to give his lunch to Jesus

- iii. Although his lunch was very simple and small, he willingly offered it to the Lord... **the young boy had great faith...**
  - iv. You see, the young boy understood that the little he had, in the hands of the Lord, could accomplish great and mighty things
  - v. And Jesus accepted the young boy's lunch, multiplied it, and fed the multitude as much as they wanted with the lunch
  - vi. So much so, that John tells us that they gathered twelve baskets full of the fragments of the five barley loaves that were left over
- b. The little the young boy had accomplished *much* in the hands of the Lord
- i. I find it so amazing how much the Lord can accomplish with so little – God doesn't need much to do a great work...Amen.
  - ii. Throughout the Bible, we see many examples of God using something small, simple, and insignificant, and doing a great work with it...
  - iii. Often times, God takes the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise and the weak things of the world to put to shame the mighty
  - iv. **1 Corinthians 1:27-28 – “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are.”**
- c. Let me briefly share with you a few examples of this biblical truth:
- i. With a simple, wooden rod, the Lord brought down a mighty Nation, the Egyptians...
  - ii. With a few trumpets, the Lord brought down a great wall, the wall of Jericho...
  - iii. With 300 soldiers, the Lord defeated the armies of Midian, which consisted of 135,000 men...
  - iv. With the jawbone of a donkey, the Lord defeated 1,000 Philistine soldiers...

- v. With a sling shot and a stone, the Lord brought down a mighty Giant, Goliath of Gath...
- vi. With a few fishermen and a humble rabbi/tent maker, the Lord turned the entire Roman Empire right side up...
- vii. The list goes on, and on, God uses the simple, weak things of this world to accomplish His glorious plans and purposes
- d. In the hands of the Lord, little is much, few is great, and the weak are mighty
  - i. *What do you have to offer the Lord? Have you completely offered it to Him already? Have you placed it in His hands?*
  - ii. God wants to use you in such a mighty way to fulfill His purposes and plans – He wants to use what *you have*...
  - iii. God will never ask you to give something that you don't have, but He desires that you give Him what you do have
  - iv. Stop focusing on what you don't have, and start focusing on what you do have; Stop focusing on what you can't do, and start focusing on what God can do...
  - v. The little you have, in the hands of the Lord, can accomplish great and mighty things – it can make a difference
  - vi. Therefore, be willing, be available, be obedient, and give yourself completely and entirely to the Lord – *“Lord, Here I am, send/use me”*
- e. A few days ago, I heard a testimony of a small child, four years old, who approached his classmate and asked him, “Do you want to ask God to come into your heart?” The classmate responded, “Yes,” and together, they prayed that God would come into their heart
  - i. If God can use a small child, He can use you – *“Won't you let Him?”*

### III.

#### Thanksgiving of the Son

5<sup>th</sup> – “The

- a. In verse 11, we read, “And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He

*distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted'*

- i. John tells us that as Jesus took the loaves, **He gave thanks**, and then He began to distribute them to His disciples
  - ii. Interestingly, the other Gospel writers tell us that as Jesus was giving thanks, and blessing the food, He looked up to Heaven...
  - iii. This little detail is important because it shows us that the One whom Jesus was thanking was God...
  - iv. Jesus was thanking His Father for supplying the few loaves and fish, even though the lunch was simple and small, the **Son was thankful**...
  - v. He was grateful and appreciated the provision of His Father, and He took the time to thank His Father...
- b. *1*  
*Thessalonians 5:18 declares, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*
- i. Make sure you are always taking the time to "**give thanks**" to your Heavenly Father – **Learn to be thankful**...
  - ii. God has been so good to us, so faithful to us, so gracious to us, so kind to us, so compassionate to us, so loving to us
  - iii. Truly, He has blessed us with hands wide open, opened the flood gates of heaven, and we need to take the time to thank Him
  - iv. We must never forget, or neglect, to thank the Lord for all that He has done for our lives...
- c. *Instead of complaining and murmuring about what you don't have, you need to be thankful for what you do have – "You are rich in Christ!"*
- i. Sadly, many like to ask something from the Lord, but few take the time to give thanks to the Lord – "**Many like to receive, but few like to give**"
  - ii. In the Gospel of Luke, we are told about 10 lepers who saw Jesus from a distance, and began to cry out, "**Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!**"

- iii. Jesus responded by telling them to go show themselves to the priests, and as they went, they were cleansed, healed from an incurable disease
- iv. But, we are told, that only one of the Lepers took the time to return to Jesus and give Him thanks
- v. They all wanted to receive a healing from the Lord, but only One wanted to give thanksgiving to the Lord – **“Which One are You?”**
- d. In everything, learn to give thanks to the Lord – “It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night” – Ps. 92:1-2

IV. 6<sup>th</sup> – “The Secret of Christian Service”

- a. Let’s read verse 11 again, “And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.”
  - i. John tells us that after Jesus gave thanks for the loaves, He distributed them to His disciples, and the disciples distributed them to the people
  - ii. The disciples simply *received* from the Lord, then, they *gave* to the people...
  - iii. In and of themselves, it would have been impossible for the disciples to minister to the needs of the people
  - iv. They didn’t have the ability or resources to feed so many people, however, they were near someone who did have the ability and resources...
  - v. So, they received from the Lord first, then they gave, and in doing so, they were able to meet the needs of the people
- b. Now, like the disciples, we are surrounded by people who have great needs
  - i. Often times, we don’t have the ability, strength, or resources to meet those needs – it must come from the Lord...
  - ii. The only way we can give to others, and be a blessing, is by first receiving from the Lord

- iii. The secret of Christian service and ministry is “*receiving from the Lord*,” as we receive from the Lord, we will be able to give
- iv. As you spend time with the Lord, as you receive from His presence, you will be better equipped and prepared to minister and serve others
- c. Never make the mistake and place ministry, or Christian service, before worship – “God is more interested in our fellowship than our service”
  - i. In Revelation, we read that the church of Ephesus was busy in ministry and Christian service, but the Lord had one complaint against them, “...*I have this against you, that you have left your first love...*”
  - ii. Sadly, the church in Ephesus was more focused on what they could do for the Lord then on spending time with the Lord, and the Lord rebuked them for it...
  - iii. Never get too busy in Christian ministry and service that you forget to spend time with the Lord
- d. Every need that you might have is found in the presence of the Lord – “Make sure to spend time with Him – He will give you the strength you need this week”

V.

- So, in closing, we see the miracle of the “Feeding of the Five Thousand”
- a. With five loaves of bread, and two small fish, the Lord Jesus fed thousands and thousands of people
  - i. If He did so much with a few loaves and a few fish, don’t you think He can do so much more with your life? I think He can...Let’s pray