

## The Gift You Gave!

**John 6:5-13 MSG** When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people?" (6) He said this to stretch Philip's faith. He already knew what he was going to do. (7) Philip answered, "Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece." (8) One of the disciples--it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter--said, (9) "There's a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this." (10) Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them. (11) Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted. (12) When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted." (13) **They went to work** and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves.

### The Scene is clear:

The hour is *late*, the need is *great*, and this crowd is hungry with an empty *plate*... **What God is about to do is priceless** – Money can't buy this kind of ministry – a little boy and his lunch can do more than one could imagine when his **contribution** is *surrendered* to the hand of the Lord!

**This Tot gives all he's Got, and the result is that God gets the glory as His guest get Fed!**

### 1 Looking closer:

Here is Jesus, trying to minister to this massive crowd, and it becomes apparent that the day is about over and that the practical needs of the crowd begin to surface!

**Proving:** God IS concerned about the Practical needs of His creation as well as the Spiritual needs!

➔ But it would also appear to illuminate the fact that as time draws to a close (as we near the end of the last days) that many will want the ministry that Jesus offers, but reaching them will include at least two things:

1. An awareness to acknowledge and accommodate people at their **point of need!**
2. People willing to give **of** and/or **from** themselves **selflessly & sacrificially!**

### 4 Important Things to notice:

#### **#1. The NEEDED Partnership of Men with Jesus for the good of the people!**

- ➔ Ministry (Think of it like this: 'men is try' –ing to work with/for God);
- ➔ Ministry ALWAYS requires at least two things:
  - Involvement of Mankind & Investment from Mankind
- ➔ **Divinity & Humanity** in supernatural Harmony working towards eternal **Unity!**
  - The youngster gave **willfully** and Jesus received it **gratefully** and the disciples worked **diligently** to see that ministry moved forward!

#### **#2. The Practical response of the Lord to the presentation of need!**

- ➔ Throwing money at the problem is not always the answer to a situation. (vs7)
  - The most valuable resource God has in this earth is the unselfish kindness of those who are willing to give of themselves for the task at hand.
- ➔ **PEOPLE** are the *most valuable resource* the Lord has for the **work** of the ministry.

#### **#3. The Purposeful Act of thanksgiving for what the Lord has provided!**

- 1 It is unprofitable and slows down the agenda of God for us to *whine, moan, or complain* about what we **don't have** or what we **still need** to acquire!
- 2 We need to be thankful for everything that we **DO** have – it is enough to meet our

Present need!

**#4. The Powerful insight to divine multiplication!**

→ Our contribution is not measured by how it **started** but by how it **ends up**.

V9 - "There's a little boy here who has **five barley loaves and two fish**. But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this."

V13 - **They went to work** and filled **twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves**.

→ It justifies the fact that when we **give** to the Lord...its **return** is GREATER than it **release**!

**1 Let talk about this boy and the beauty of his benevolent charity:**

→ He is a **Ministry Helper! He...**

- 1 **Volunteered** to be a part of the solution for the problem facing the Lord's work.
- 2 **Gave** of what he possessed so that those who didn't have what he had could benefit from what he gave. → *His offering offered **Hope and Help** for the **Hungry!***
- 2 **Sacrificed** what he could have saved for himself so that someone else could see God at Work!

→ BUT, **more than anything** else, this boy's gift teaches us that there is **no such thing** as a **small contribution!**

↳ God **respects** what you bring to the ministry table and it is not **regarded** lightly.

**Your gift:**

*Feeds* the need of many

*Facilitates* others in order to give them strength to go a little further

*Fosters* the possibility that someone can receive life giving sustenance

**1 This story states the obvious:** Your **Addition** to the ministry of Jesus Christ **Multiplies** God's opportunity to feed people the gospel message of **Faith, Hope and Love!**

**LISTEN** – You can pick up a couple of Fish sandwiches at McDonalds™ any day of the week for less than \$5, *but what price can you put on this historic **sack lunch**...it was priceless!*

3 Just as **priceless** – is the value of your donation to the *continued outward working* of the **plans** and **purposes** of God!

↳ Your volunteerism is invaluable!

↳ Your investment is inestimable!

↳ Your contribution is incalculable!

→ Your *willingness to sacrifice* your **time, talents** and **treasures** will insure that Jesus gets a **further opportunity** to share His message with those who will listen!

*Wise Men bring* their gifts to Christ

*Willing Men yield* their giftings to Christ

**Truth remains:** *God can't use what we refuse to lose!*

→ With the Lord, it is what we **give away** that **comes back Blessed & Bountiful!**

The power for God to do more with what we bring is not in **what** is **surrendered**, but it is in the **surrender!**

As we honor the volunteerism of this church's work core, let it be said that:

You have **given** of what you had and the Lord has **received** it and **many** have been fed by **your gift** ...the ministries of this church are **your story** and only eternity will be able to **number** the crowd!

→ **Thank you...**every contributor who has given what they *could have kept* to themselves!

**Your Gift Given is God's Glory Gained!**