

Feed My Flock

“The feeding of the 5000”

Luke 9: 10-17

I. The Context (9: 1-6)

- a. Verse 2- “sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God”
 - i. Disciples went all through Galilee
- b. Verse 3 – “take nothing – no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic”
 - i. Can you imagine? This is completely against what we are taught – BE PREPARED!
 1. Y2K – stock up – preparing for disaster
 2. First year living in Mexico – we stocked up on everything as if there were no stores here in Mexico.
 3. Who is in control – Who will provide for your needs? Do you trust me?
 - ii. **I believe that the answer is that Jesus was training the twelve to trust Him for their every need**, and especially for their daily needs. If the disciples were to have a roof over their heads at night and food on the table, the power of God would have to be real in and through them. The gospel would have to work. “No work, no eat” has a very different, but a very real relevance to the apostles as they went about, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God and healing the sick.
 - iii. **Will you and I trust HIM to provide for our every need?**
 1. We know that traveling this way was not always required, for later in Luke Jesus specifically reversed the instructions He gave the disciples in our text:
 - a. “When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?” “Nothing,” they answered. He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one” (Luke 22:35-36).
 2. God did give us a brain and abilities – Paul made tents. God doesn’t expect us to be lazy and beg. But we need to trust God to provide the right job or any job depending on situation.
 - a. Butterfly and the Flower – See attached

- b. Perhaps God gave you the perfect job for now even if it is cleaning toilets because perhaps that will put you in the position to be promoted or to meet someone who has the job that God has for you in HIS perfect time!
 - c. V. 10 - Now notice the test – the disciples are exhausted and tired. Jesus knows this and says that they withdraw and go away and have time to rest – (Mark 6:30, 31 – “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest”)
 - i. Who is in control – Who will provide for your needs? Do you trust me?
 - ii. You are tired and exhausted and along come the multitude.
 - 1. Jesus tells us to come to HIM, all who are tired and burdened and then boom, one more responsibility.

Now that we understand the context, let's move along. Next notice the Compassion of Jesus!

II. The Compassion (9:11)

- a. Mark 6:34 – “Jesus had compassion on them”. He saw their needs and His needs and the disciples’ needs were secondary. I believe He also knew what the disciples really needed was a lesson in compassion.
- b. I’m not sure the Disciples shared the compassion – they were exhausted and probably really wanted time alone with Jesus. Mentally and emotionally, I don’t think they put out the welcome mat, as Jesus had done. I think that they, like me, would have sighed, “Oh, no!” at the sight of this crowd, at the very time when they had looked forward to a brief retreat, away from the crowds.
 - i. Ellen and I have very little time alone together without responsibilities – i.e. Carlos on a Sunday afternoon
- c. Colossians 3:12ff
- d. Philippians 2:1-4
- e. Welcome mat is not a door mat – meaning we are not to allow people to take advantage of us if it doesn’t meet their true needs, not wants.
- f. God wants us to learn how to trust HIM for everything –
 - i. Matthew 6:25-34 - seek first HIS kingdom!
 - ii. Philippians 4:13 – we need to learn to rely on HIM alone for emotional strength and ability.
 - 1. weight loss – ‘it was a God thing’

III. The Command (9:12-17)

- a. V. 13 – “You give them something to eat”.
 - i. Can you imagine? But Lord, we don’t have anything!
 - 1. Can you see the subliminal thought of Jesus – When will you learn to trust me?
 - 2. Jesus could have done things much differently, making things a great deal easier on the disciples. He (knowing all things) would have known that this problem was going to arise, so He could have made advanced preparations. He could have had food brought out. He could even have miraculously provided a huge supply of food, and then commanded His disciples to serve it. But this is not the way that Jesus chose to meet the needs of the crowd or to test and teach HIS disciples..
- b. God wants to use us – we are to be HIS vessels.
 - i. Matthew 28:19,20 – the Great Commission – why do we think this is just preaching and teaching in words?
 - ii. While the Lord is the One who fed the five thousand, it was the twelve disciples who were very much involved in the process of the feeding. They were to survey the crowd, seeking to discover what their resources were.
- c. The resources may be limited – well we only have 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread, so now what do we do.
 - i. Is your cup half empty or half full? Wow, we have 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread – go God go!
- d. God Always provides –
 - i. Philippians 4:19, “and my God will supply all your needs according the riches in Christ Jesus” – do you believe that?
 - ii. How many times does He have to prove to us?
 - 1. What the disciples were commanded to do, they had to do in faith. They had to act before Jesus provided. They had the people sit down to eat when there was no food. The people surely knew this. They had heard the disciples asking how much food was on hand. They knew there was virtually no food. They saw what little the boy had brought. The disciples had to begin passing out the food. When and how the food was multiplied, we do not know. But just as the priests who bore the ark had to get their feet wet before the Red Sea parted or the Jordan ceased to flow, the disciples had to act before the solution was given. God acted through the disciples, as they obeyed.

I believe the disciples, like you and I, were expected to put their physical needs on the back burner. They were to trust God to meet their needs, and were to devote themselves to meeting the needs of the crowd. And when they let God worry about their needs, they ended up abundantly provided for, each having a basket filled with food. The world says, “God helps those who help themselves.” This text teaches us that “God helps those who help others.” We need to remember that some needs are not genuine needs at all. Satan, for example, fabricated a “need” for Adam and Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, so that they could be “like God.” Other needs are real, but of lower priority than others. Jesus, during His temptation in the wilderness, had the “need” for food, but His need to obey God is more important than His need for food, even for physical life. Jesus commanded His disciples not to take along provisions for their journey so that their need for food and shelter would be subordinated to their need to obey. Seek God’s wisdom to learn what the true need is – not what is the easiest to meet. It is easy to provide clothing and food – but what is the real need?