

What You Don't Have

Message on Spiritual Growth: Each one of us is lacking in some way. *None of us are yet perfect*, and we all have **weaknesses and problems. BUT *we cannot* be so focused on **what we don't have** that we miss recognizing, appreciating, and using what we do have.**

***Jesus heals a Government Official's Son – Jesus Heals a Lame Man by a pool – Jesus then claims to be the Son of God – Jesus Supports His Claim... John 5**

John 6 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

- Sometime after this, ***Jesus crossed to the far shore*** of the Sea of Galilee
- And ***a great crowd of people followed*** him because they saw *the signs he had performed by healing* the sick.
- Then **Jesus** went up on a mountainside and **sat down** with his disciples.
- The **Jewish Passover Festival** was near.

John 6:5-9 NKJV - ⁵ Then Jesus lifted up *His* eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, *He said to Philip*, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" ⁶ But this He said to test him, for *He Himself knew* what He would do. ⁷ Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread ***is not sufficient*** for them, that every one of them may have a little."

⁸ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, ⁹ "***There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?***"

This is a very well-known story - *Five thousand men* had come to hear Jesus speak, and **Jesus asked Philip,**

- ***"Where shall we buy bread to feed all these men?"***
- **Philip answered with the impossibility of the task –**

When **Jesus asked Philip where** they could buy a great amount of bread –

- Philip starting ***assessing the probable cost***.
- **Even if we could it would cost too much and wouldn't be enough...**

Jesus wanted to ***teach him*** that financial resources are not the most important ones.

We can limit what God does in us by assuming we know what he can and cannot do.

- Is there some seemingly **impossible task** that you believe **God wants you to do?????**
- **Don't** let your estimate of ***what can't be done*** keep you from **taking on the task.**
- **God can do the miraculous** -
- **Trust him to provide** the resources when he gives you a mission.

If anyone would know where to get the food it would have been Philip...

- He was from a **nearby town.** (Bethsaida about nine miles away)

Jesus was testing Philip to strengthen his faith.

- By asking for a human solution – **knowing *none existed...***
- **Jesus highlighted** the powerful and miraculous act that he was about to perform.

Then came Andrew and a young boy – who had 5 loaves and two small fish.

John Contrasts the Young Boy, ***who brought what he had,*** with the confused disciples.

We know the end of the story –

- Jesus told everyone to sit down in rows
- Then he blessed the food
- And brake the bread
- And everyone was **invited** to take as much as they wanted.

Not only were the **5,000 men fed,**

- But there were **12 baskets** of fragments taken up when they were finished.

I have heard preaching about this story –

When a person offers the little they have, then Jesus can turn that little into more than enough.

They Certainly had more resources than the boy, but they *didn't* have enough, so they *didn't* give anything at all.

- Did you ever wonder if **anybody else** there that day had any food?
- Surely someone else had something as well.
- **What about the disciples?**
- Did any of them have any food with them?
- If they did, **why didn't they offer it** when the need arose?

I think it is because - They weren't looking at what they had, they were focused on what they didn't have.

The boy gave what little he had, and it **made all the difference**.

- If we **offer nothing to God**, he will have nothing from us to use!
- But if we give to him -
- **He can take what little we have and turn it into something great.**

The disciples weren't even well enough equipped to meet a basic need like feeding the people.

- They saw they were lacking, and they were lacking in a major way.
- They hadn't made any plans or provisions for such an event.
- They were caught short and found wanting.

All they could see was what they didn't have!!!!!!

Here He took what a young boy offered and used it to accomplish one of the most spectacular miracles recorded in the Gospels.

- **Jesus** recognizes no barriers.
- **Never think** you are too young or too old or too anything to be of service to him.

Many times in the scriptures people were told to use what they had.

- Look at *the parable of the men who were given talents*,
- And had to later give account for how they had used them.
- They were told to *use what they had been given*.

Another event that comes to mind is the widow in 2 Kings 4.

There was the widow of a prophet whose sons were going to be taken into slavery to pay their debts, so she went to the prophet Elisha to ask for help.

This is what he said:

2 Kings 4:2 NKJV - So Elisha said to her, "**What** shall I do for you? Tell me, **what do you have** in the house?" And she said, "**Your maidservant has nothing** in the house but a jar of oil."

Elisha said,

- What do you want me to do???
- You already have what you need.
- Think about what you have.

The widow was told to get as many empty vessels as she could borrow,

- And go into her house, and shut the door -
- And pour the oil into the vessels.

Enough oil came from that little jar of oil **she had** to fill every empty vessel she had collected, and **then the oil stopped**.

- She sold the oil and paid her debts.

Once again the woman was focusing on **what she didn't have** - **instead of what she did**.

- She had that jar of oil the whole time,
- But she was so consumed **by her lack and failure**
- That she had **never thought** of using it before.

Each one of us is lacking in some way.

- None of us are yet perfect
- We all have weaknesses and problems.

We cannot be so focused on what we don't have that we miss recognizing, appreciating, and using what we do have!!!!

Weakness:

1. WEAKNESS WE CANNOT CHANGE

I am actually a very talented singer and musician.

- It is just that I am trapped in this body.
- All of us have different abilities, gifts and strengths.
- **In the same way** there are areas that *we are not good at*.

I may not be a good singer, but *I am good with figures and administration*.

- Other people are not so good with figures.
- I can't preach a fiery message that will cause people to throw themselves on the altar, or run around the Church rejoicing.
- I can't preach a message that brings 1000's to repentance.
- All I can do is preach the way I do.

If I focus on *what I can't do*, then I would never preach at all...

- **So I have decided** that I will use the personality and strengths that **God has given me to preach** these messages.
- I **believe** that they have their place in God's kingdom
- **He will use them** to accomplish something with eternal value.

Just because *God has not chosen me* to preach to thousands of people –

- I will not make the mistake of focusing on what I don't have.
- I will instead focus on what I do have.

Why do we get focused on what we can't do, instead of seeing what we can do?

- **God has given us** our strengths and abilities
- **If we are willing** to place them in His hands
- **We will see God** do great things through us.

2. WEAKNESS WE CAN CHANGE

All of us have areas of weakness that we can change, that *we can strengthen*.

- **Maybe it is a sin** *we are involved in*, or a **character flaw** *we have*.
- **Maybe we feel** *we ought to be doing better* in some area of our life.

I also think we can make two mistakes in this area –

- a. Ignoring or overlooking the need for change.
- b. Focusing so much on our flaw that we become crippled by it.

The Apostle Paul said about himself:

1 Timothy 1:15 NKJV - ¹⁵ This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ **Jesus came** into the world **to save sinners**, of *whom I am chief*.

He saw himself as the worst ever sinner.

- He also said that he a **“thorn in the flesh, a message of Satan”**
- That would knock him around, and remind him
- How worthless and lowly he really was.
- **He didn't allow these things to stop him** using the strengths that he did have.
- He **didn't ignore his weaknesses** – he was working on them with God's help
- He **didn't focus on what he didn't have**.
- He remembered that he had some great strengths as well.

In Acts 3, we see Peter and John going to prayer when they came across the lame man at the gate called Beautiful.

- The lame man asked for money.
- **Peter gave him something much better!!!! THE USE OF HIS LEGS.**

Acts 3:4-5 NKJV - Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, **“Look at us!”** ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, **expecting to get something from them**.

Peter and John didn't start thinking about what they didn't have.

- Oh no, if only we had some money to give him.
- We are pretty hopeless because we don't even have a social welfare program to feed the needy.
- What kind of apostles are we ***if we are so lacking*** in this area.
- It just shows how unimportant and out of touch we are.
- **We don't have anything** that these other guys coming past here have.

CLOSE:

Peter and John didn't focus on what they didn't have.

- They were not crippled by their weakness or their lack.
- Instead they immediately thought of their strength.

Acts 3:6 NKJV - ⁶Then Peter said, "Silver and gold **I do not have**, but ***what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ*** of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

"In the name of Jesus Christ" means "by the authority of Jesus Christ."

- The apostles were doing this healing through the Holy Spirit's power, *not their own*.
- In his excitement. The formerly crippled man **began to jump, walk around, and praise God**.
- Then others were awed by God's power.
- Don't forget to **thank people** who help you, and remember to praise God for **his care and protection**.

PRAISE TEAM:

If you have a weakness you cannot change

- Recognize that you are what you are because God made you -
- He has chosen the abilities you do have.

You are not less valuable in His sight because:

- There are some things that you are not good at. **On the contrary,**
- You are needed exactly the way you are - - -
- To complete the body of Christ that **the Church is supposed to be**.

If you have a weakness you can change, ***don't ignore it***.

- Work with God as ***He corrects and transforms*** you -
- But **don't be so consumed by it** that ***you become a cripple***.

We cannot be so focused on what we don't have that we miss recognizing, appreciating, and using what we do have.

- Let's change our focus at the altar!