

**Ordinary People**  
(The Lad with the Lunch)  
**Offering What We Have to God**

**John 6:1-14 - Feeding the Five Thousand**

6 After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. 3 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.

4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. 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?"

10 Then Jesus said, "Make the people 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 them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." 13 Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. 14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

**Everyone has something to offer to God.**

- **If** we will offer what we have to the Lord,
- **He will bless it and multiply it** beyond our greatest expectations!

***God loves ordinary people.***

Often the Lord has used people of great talent and ability, but ***He delights in using the common person*** whose talents and abilities are unremarkable.

**1 Corinthians 1:25-29** - 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

26 Brothers and sisters, ***think of what you were when you were called***. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But **God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.** 28 **God chose the lowly things** of this world and **the despised things**—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that **no one may boast** before him.

**God often chooses the weakest and lowliest individuals and make them the strongest. He chooses the insignificant person and makes them significant.**

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**\*\*\*THE LARGE NEED\*\*\***

**Mark 6:34** - When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw **the large crowd** that was like sheep without a shepherd. **He felt sorry for the people** and started teaching them many things.

**Jesus spoke unto them of the “kingdom of God”**

**Luke 9:11** - But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and **He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God** and **healed those who had need of healing.**

- He “healed their sick.”
- What a picture the Scriptures give of **this notable occasion!**
- Here was the Good Shepherd **caring for and calling** to the thousands.
- They were gathered like sheep on that grassy, Galilean hillside.

**Jesus still ministers to those who are in desperate need.**

- **If we would only be as eager** as the multitude who sought Him on that day, **we would soon discover how much the Lord cares.**
- The Lord **did not** hold Himself apart on that day, and **neither will He** stand **distant** today.

**Hebrews 4:15** - For **we do not** have a High Priest **who cannot sympathize** with **our weaknesses**, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- **Christ enters into** our sufferings.
- He is **“touched with the feeling of our infirmities”**.
- He had a **nature like our own**, Although **He was without sin**,
- And **He is full of compassion** towards struggling humanity.

**As the Master continued to minister, the disciples rationalized.**

**Mark 6:35** - By this time, it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and *it's already very late*."

- They had *noticed and possibly thought* that Christ *had not observed* that the day was growing late.

**Mark 6:36** - Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

- They suggested *sending the people away*
- **Go buy yourselves bread:** for *they have nothing* to eat.

**The disciples struggled with doubt**

- *And probably reasoned* that the people *would do well* in that desolate area
- *If they all found food and lodging* in the nearby villages.

**Luke 9:12** - Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here."

- Perhaps *if Jesus would act quickly*, they could *avert a dilemma*.
- *Somewhat impatiently*, they reminded the Lord, "We are here in a desert."

**\*\*\*The things that perplex us the most are *easily handled by the Lord*.**

- *Jesus often spoke a few words* or *touched a sufferer* with His hand to heal and minister to human needs.
- Nature *always obeyed* His command.

**The real question, then, is not *whether Christ can deal with our problems*.**

**The question has always been *whether we have confidence in His all-sufficient power*.**

***To their astonishment*, Jesus told His disciples, Matthew 14:16 - But Jesus said to them, "*They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.*"**

**John 6:7** - Philip answered him, "*It would take more than* half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

- *The twelve* may have looked at one another in bewilderment.
- They certainly *began to protest*.

***Philip had calculated what it might cost to feed the crowd a bare minimum*.**

- It would be *more than one-half a year's wages*.
- But *as many people often do*,
- **He had greatly underestimated what the Lord could do.**

- Jesus was about to show the disciples
- That He could provide the people with more than enough.

Before we complain about what we do not have, we need to ascertain what we do have.

Mark 6:38 - But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish."

- Jesus said to His disciples, "How many loaves do you have? go and see"!!!

We should take a good look around us before we give up in despair

- Believing God is using whatever is at hand.....
- And watch Him perform the impossible.....

**\*\*Faith looks for potential; unbelief sees only obstacles.**

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**\*\*\*\*THE LITTLE OFFERING\*\*\*\*** All four of the Gospels tell of the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, but only John recorded the fact that there was a little boy who gave up his lunch to Jesus.

John 6:9 - "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

- Only one verse that even refers to the youngster.
- That single reference adds a beautiful and significant touch to the story.
- It speaks loudly of the ways of God.

It encourages us all to offer whatever we can, as little as that may seem, to the Master.

There was not much that the little boy with the lunch could do.

- The practical thing for him to have done, keep his food for himself.
- That's reasonable, but something must have touched his young heart.
- You could hardly blame a child for eating his own lunch, BUT -
- Somehow, he forgot his own needs and offered what little he had to Jesus.

In the presence of Jesus, the boy had caught the spirit of giving.

Giving is infectious. Giving is selfless.

- When a person opens their heart to God, he also opens his hand to others.
- The boy was acting on the principles that Jesus had taught all along.
- He was a "doer" and not just a "hearer."
- His giving was an expression of his genuine faith in Jesus.

Jesus has always responded to active faith — As often is the case, Where it seems obvious that nothing can be done faith can excel.

***This is exactly the place which God often leads us.***

**“Faith looks for potential; unbelief sees only obstacles.”**

Here is where He wants to meet us and to *ble*ss us.

- It is when we know we are without adequate resources,
- When we see *our total insufficiency* that - - -
- We can *really discover God’s power*....
- When *we are reduced to nothing*....
- We can best view *Jesus as being every-thing.*

**It is wise to recognize the contrast between God’s strength and our weakness.**

**This was the lesson that David learned as a shepherd boy.**

**God reminded David later in his life, II Samuel 7:8 - *I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel.***

- **A person may become *too haughty to be used of the Lord.***
- **But they never will become too humble.**

**Little faith struggles to believe. It strains against doubt and uncertainty.**

**Little faith is often a desperate call.**

**It is a father crying out to Jesus with tears,**

**Mark 9:24 - Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; **help my unbelief!**”**

**It is twelve disciples in a storm, waking the Master and demanding,**

**Mark 4:38 - Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”**

- **Little faith has fears and misgivings.**
- ***Little faith may stand quivering for a time, but it still can step forward***

**John 6:9 - “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”**

**Andrew was sure that five barley loaves and two small fish were negligible.**

- **Christ, however, knew differently.**
- **He knew the value of a small child’s faith...**
- **He knew what He would do.**
- ***He would take* that child’s lunch and provide for the needs of thousands.**

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**\*\*\*THE LIMITLESS GOD - *There was a large need and a little offering, but there was also a limitless God!***

**God is not restricted by circumstances.**

- He can roll the Red Sea back like a blanket.
- The laws of earth are subject to His command and the powers of hell tremble in His presence.
- His authority over sickness and death are limitless.
- His knowledge is infinite.

**We serve an awesome God.**

**He is not only wonderful** because of His measureless strength but also because of His amazing concern.

**David declared: Psalm 139:2** - You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

**Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks - John 6:11** 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.

**What a remarkable statement!**

- Here was the Lord of glory, giving thanks for a little boy's lunch.
- There was no grumbling about what others had not supplied,
- But sincere appreciation for what had been given.

***Oh, what Jesus can do with a sacrifice from a humble heart!***

- ***God's blessing*** was on the boy's offering.
- If the lunch seemed trifling to the disciples, it certainly ***was important*** to the Lord.
- ***"There were only a few bites of food in the offering,"*** one might say.
- Yes, but ***what a difference*** when they were ***blessed by the Lord!***

**Often the greatest givers in the church are not millionaires.**

- The greatest supporters in most congregations are **ordinary people** with everyday jobs.
- They put **the cause of God first in their lives** and **consistently give** of their means, even when ***it seems to them to be so little***.

One of the reasons Jesus had the disciples ascertain what they had was **to prove to them what God could do**.

- The Lord was **not** only interested in feeding the multitude.....
- He was also interested in nourishing the faith of His disciples.....

They were to learn that God often waits on us to act first

- **Only** then does He **do what we cannot do**.
- God will not do for us, what we can do for ourselves.
- Jesus instructed the disciples to seat the thousands upon the grass.

Since there were only five loaves, each disciple must have received no more than a piece of bread. **But then something wonderful happened**.

As each disciple passed out what he received, the bread increased.

- **It grew and multiplied**. Every handful **became part of a miracle**.
- **Every person was being fed, and still there was more than enough**.

When God is ready to perform a miracle, it seems He chooses the most unlikely method possible.

Isaiah 55:8 “For **My thoughts** are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways **My ways**,” says the Lord.

- His thoughts are **not our thoughts**; His ways are **not our ways**.
- **God speaks and then confirms His Word by unusual means**.

**The Word** has many examples of Ordinary people whom God used.

- Some of these people, in trying times, **struggled to believe**.
- They **questioned God** in their minds, and yet –
- When they **offered what they could** to the Lord,
- He **abundantly blessed** their efforts.

God makes sure that whatever is invested **brings returns**.

Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

- The returns **in our service to God** can be simply astounding.
- Whether we are giving of our finances, of our time, or of our talents, ***the Lord measures our blessings in proportion to what is given***.

Something wonderful always happened when people gave to Jesus out of respect and love.

- Mary, Martha, and Lazarus gave Him a place to rest, and He gave them a resurrection miracle.
- The woman with the alabaster box gave Him her precious ointment and He gave His forgiveness for her sins.

Many people know something about Jesus, but they never get close enough to Him to really perceive what He is doing.

- Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see the Lord.
- The woman w/the issue of blood pressed through the crowd to touch Him.
- Andrew, Peter's brother, said, "There is a lad here" (John 6:9).
- The boy was there, close to the Savior.
- Close enough to hear the need and offer his lunch to see a miracle!!!

What will we as believers do with our God given talents?

- There is so much to do, and every Christian has an important role to play.
- Idleness, indifference, and mediocrity have no place in the kingdom of God.

**CLOSE:** A great multitude of people stood listening to Jesus in a deserted area somewhere near Bethsaida. He taught them and healed their sickness.

- The day was moving to its close and it would soon be nightfall.
- The disciples wondered if Jesus would send the people away hungry.

*Jesus could have created food that day from nothing as He had done in Creation.*

- He could have spoken the word.
- The multitude would have been satisfied with quail and manna as Israel had been satisfied in the wilderness.
- He could have sent His disciples away and they could have returned with wagonloads of provisions.
- He could have done any one of these things, but instead –

\*\*\*\*He chose to use the common barley loaves and a few small fish from a lad's lunch\*\*\*\*

- We can spend too much time questioning the benefits of our offering.

*Everyone has something to offer to God.*

If we will only give freely, like the little boy with the lunch, we too will see God's abundant blessings.

\*\*\*\*Offering What We Have to God!!!!\*\*\*\*