

SIMPLE FISH AND BREAD

Mark 6:35-44



Have you ever thought about how hard it is for God to tell us about Himself so we would fully understand?

- You might say God can do anything, and be correct, but we are finite beings with limited abilities to understand anything outside of our universe
- God has said, “I love you”, but how do we understand love?
- Can we create anything from nothing as God has?

Have you ever thought about how hard it is for God to tell us about Himself so we would fully understand?

- We don't understand something outside of our universe
- We don't understand omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscient

Have you ever thought about how hard it is for God to tell us about Himself so we would fully understand?

- God demonstrates his character in our world so we might begin to grasp the greatness of who He is
- We see this in the story of Noah, Abraham, Nation of Israel

Have you ever thought about how hard it is for God to tell us about Himself so we would fully understand?

- We see this in the miracles of Jesus
- There are only two miracles of Jesus in all 4 Gospels
- The resurrection of Jesus and the Feeding of the 5,000
- **Mark 6:35-44**

From a purely human viewpoint, the mass of people must have looked like a multitude of burdens.

- I wonder if the disciples wanted to keep on sailing
- But Jesus saw something different
- To Him they looked like sheep without a shepherd

From a purely human viewpoint, the mass of people looked like a multitude of burdens.

- **Numbers 27:15-17 NLT** 15 Then Moses said to the Lord, 16 “O Lord, you are the God who gives breath to all creatures. Please appoint a new man as leader for the community. 17 Give them someone who will guide them wherever they go and will lead them into battle, so the community of the Lord will not be like sheep without a shepherd.”

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- **2 Kings 4:42-43 NIV** 42 A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain, along with some heads of new grain. “Give it to the people to eat,” Elisha said. 43 “How can I set this before a hundred men?” his servant asked. But Elisha answered, “Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the Lord says: ‘They will eat and have some left over.’” 44 Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the Lord.

From a purely human viewpoint, the mass of people looked like a multitude of burdens.

- **Deuteronomy 8:3 NIV** man does not live on bread alone
- But bread is essential nonetheless
- The disciples made a reasonable suggestion
- Jesus could use a break while the people saw to their needs

From a purely human viewpoint, the mass of people looked like a multitude of burdens.

- **John 6:6 NLT** He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.
- God doesn't just pull a ministry need out of a hat and then look for the closest tool to use
- He already knows what He wants done and how it is to be done and who He wants to use
- What can we learn from these scriptures?

R. Alan Cole, “God does not lead us to see a need, unless it be in His mind to use us to meet that need, be it by prayer or otherwise.”

- How many ministry needs do we not see during the day?
 - I ask this not to condemn you because if God wanted you to see it, He is God and can get your attention
 - If you see it after the fact, that’s just His way of saying, “Pay closer attention.”

R. Alan Cole, “God does not lead us to see a need, unless it be in His mind to use us to meet that need, be it by prayer or otherwise.”

- The disciples saw a need, but Jesus saw an opportunity
- Jesus gave them a direct command, “You feed them”
- The disciples began by counting the cost or seeing the need vertically
- Nothing wrong with this, in fact Jesus tells us to count the cost of following Him

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- The disciples’ summary is, “Can’t be done, impossible, you are asking too much of us Jesus”
- From a human standpoint, these are all true statements
- This is where the disciples left it, no follow up questions to Jesus
 - How would you, Master, like for us to feed them?

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- They knew Jesus was Lord of sickness, disease and brokenness
- They knew Jesus was Lord of demons
- Jesus had commanded them to heal and they had

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- Now he is commanding them to feed, to do the impossible again. Will he not enable them to carry out His command?
- Would Jesus have commanded them to fail?

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- **Exodus 33:12-13 NIV** 12 Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ 13 If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”

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- **Exodus 33:14-16 NIV** 4 The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” 15 Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. 16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”

The disciples participated in Christ's work by following the commands of Christ

- We must never forget these ministry events belong to Jesus
- The disciples were His hands, feet, face and heart
- The people were seeing God with skin
- Jesus was the will and power to accomplish what commanded

The disciples participated in Christ's work by handing out the bread.

- We must be willing to do some things that will not make sense to us
- **vs. 38 NIV** "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."
- Notice all the bread and fish was dedicated to Jesus to use however He wanted

The disciples participated in Christ's work by handing out the bread.

- **vs. 39 NIV** Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.
- Then the Lord of bread and fish prayed that His Heavenly Father would be glorified through this
- He had the disciples probably line up with their empty basket in hand

The disciples participated in Christ's work by handing out the bread.

- Jesus began to tear and drop, tear and drop into their baskets Himself
- Notice the work Jesus did, He enabled the disciples
- Notice Jesus fed every person there completely full
- No one went away hungry unless they refused to take from the basket offered them
 - That's the way salvation is

Kingdom resources do not run out.

- **Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV** 22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
- Who knows how long it took to distribute bread and fish to 10,000 – men, women and children?

Kingdom resources do not run out.

- But the bread and fish never ran out
- Years after Jesus' departure, with the burdens of ministry-and all its impossible demands-falling upon the apostles they undoubtedly remembered this day
 - When Jesus challenged them with an impossible task then provided the means to accomplish it

Kingdom resources do not run out.

- We are responsible to apply what we have, regardless of how insignificant it is
- He will then multiply our sacrifice to meet the need, and together we will accomplish His plans
- Chuck Swindoll says -It is as if Jesus is saying, “You take care of the addition; I’ll be in charge of the multiplication. And the mission I’ve called you to fulfill will be abundantly accomplished. You have My Word on it.”

Summary

- This prefigured the day when Jesus himself would be the bread offered up and broken to meet people's need
- If you have come to an impasse in your life, it may be looming before you and seem as impossible as trying to feed 10,000 people with a handful of bread and fish
- It has, perhaps, come as close to unbearable as you ever thought possible

Summary

- Impossibilities, by their very nature, cannot be humanly tolerated indefinitely
 - When the impossible situation drags on, our whole lives become consumed by our human, horizontal perspective

Summary

- I challenge you to put yourself in this event
- You have identified yourself with the disciples and I now ask you to identify yourself with the Savior
- The disciples saw a problem where Jesus saw an opportunity
- From our human standpoint, we cannot see the magnificent opportunity God sees

Summary

- If we truly believe God, we must accept this fact; Nothing is impossible with Him
- So how do we get relief from the pressure?
- We put our bread and fish in His hands, then follow His directions
- Remember – we face magnificent opportunities throughout our lives, each one brilliantly disguised as an impossible situation

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