

When All You Have Just Isn't Enough

We are continuing to look at Mark's gospel so turn with me to **Mark 6:31-44**. This is the story of the feeding of the five thousand. You recall from last Sunday the disciples had just returned from their first mission's trip and they were excited about what they had witnessed as people were healed and delivered and the good news of God's kingdom was spreading throughout the land. The crowds were pressing in and around them and Jesus wisely suggested that they slip away from the crowds to a quiet place to get some rest.

I want to quickly read this passage and then I want you to turn to **John 6:1-15**. John gives some greater detail to the miracle and some additional background information that I want us to see. (Read Mark 6:21-44 and then John 6:1-15)

The crowds ran ahead of him. They were desperate to be where Jesus was. John says in verse 2 that the crowd followed him because they saw the miracles he had performed and the sick that had been healed. These were needy people, without health care or medicine, without anyone to seriously care for their soul and spirit or their bodies. They followed him because of the miraculous and this was no small crowd – at least 5,000 men in the crowd.

Mark's gospel says when he saw this great crowd he had compassion upon them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Sheep aren't very bright. They have a small head and a small brain. Jesus looked at these people and realized they didn't have direction, they didn't have understanding so notice what he did. He didn't start healing people as he often did, instead he began teaching them. Mark says, "He began teaching them many things." What is that old saying about give a man a fish you feed him for a day, but teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. That's what Jesus was doing that day. He was going to feed them physically, but first he fed them spiritually. First things first. He wanted to give them knowledge and understanding concerning the word of God. Knowledge of God's word and God's ways - that's the key to life and living so that your needs are met. He first gave them the Word of God, the bread of life and then he prepared to give them literal bread to eat.

Look at John 6:5-6. The Scripture tells us that Jesus wanted to test the

disciples. **“When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.”** When Jesus saw the crowd he decided to test the disciples. He is still testing his followers like us. He knows what our response will be to the test, but we don’t and we need to make that discovery. He tests us to see where we will turn for answers. To whom will we turn for help? Upon whom will we rely? He tests us so we can learn to trust him even more. He already had in mind what he would do, but he was inviting them to come join him by faith in this project - testing them to see if they would make the adjustments necessary to move in faith with him.

“Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” Here is the problem. Here is your test. Where do we turn for help when facing an impossible task?

I believe Jesus was testing them because he wanted them to recognize that **This was a situation beyond their resources and ability.** He wanted them to face an impossible circumstance to see how they would react. You see, sometimes we come up against things and think, “I can handle this one myself. I’ll tackle this on my own. I’ll attempt this one without God’s help. I think I can do this. If I just work a little harder, longer hours, I can probably take care of this.” And we waste our time and effort relying upon ourselves rather than trusting Jesus. Jesus wanted them to see that this was impossible! We are better off when we quickly come to the end of ourselves and have to turn to God.

“Where shall we buy bread?” Look at Philip’s reply. “Eight months wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have one bite!” “Jesus, what are you thinking? Buy bread. We couldn’t begin to buy bread for this crowd. It’s impossible.”

Jesus wanted the disciples to realize **They would have to look beyond themselves for the answer.** He wanted them to recognize this was a problem they couldn’t solve. They needed to step out of the box of natural thinking and begin to think like Jesus, to believe for the supernatural.

I think He was testing them because **Jesus wanted to see if they would exercise their faith.** Did they really believe “all things are possible?” Or had they

limited Jesus to just certain miracles. “We know He can heal, but I don’t know about feeding 5,000.” This was more than just having power over sickness or even power over nature like calming the storm. This was a creative miracle, making something out of nothing. Could they believe God for a miracle of this size, of this dimension? Would they look to Jesus, looking beyond themselves, trusting Jesus to change things or would they give up and give in to doubt and unbelief?

I believe he is still allowing tests to come to his disciples – to us, to see if we will exercise our faith, to see if we will stretch our faith to look beyond ourselves and to believe him for the miraculous, to do the impossible.

I believe he was testing them because **Jesus wanted them to learn he had an agenda bigger than this one issue, beyond just “what’s for lunch and who is serving it?”** The agenda was bigger than feeding 5,000. It was about opening the disciples up to the miraculous, showing them that all things were possible. It was about showing them that surrender and obedience to Christ will lead to a miraculous provision.

Jesus asked them what they had. How many loaves do you have? We don’t know. Then go find out. “Go and see.” John gives us details on the five loaves and two fish they found. It belonged to a small boy and Andrew brought the boy to Jesus with his lunch.

I appreciate Andrew. He was always bringing people to Jesus. He brought Simon Peter, his brother to Jesus at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry and now he brings this young boy to Jesus.

Andrew was looking for a way to help. Or maybe looking out for the disciples, or perhaps he thought that since Jesus asked about food that he was hungry and Andrew was trying to at least come up with something for Jesus to eat. “I found lunch for Jesus and me and the kid. What are the rest of you going to eat?”

“How far will five loaves and two small fish go among so many?” Here is hope but not much faith. Here is all we’ve got, but I realize it won’t go very far. Look how big our needs are and look how little we have. Look how inadequate our resources. All we have is not enough! And there is my question for you this morning.

What do you do when all you have is not enough?

Have you ever felt like that? All you have is not enough. All you've given is just not enough. You are tired, weary, overworked, you've expended your last ounce of energy and exercised your last ounce of faith. You've listened to every tape, gone to every seminar and conference, attended every Benny Hinn and Joyce Meyer meeting within 500 miles and still, after all that, after all you've done, after all you've sacrificed and invested, it still doesn't seem to be enough. Still sick, still frightened, still in a battle, in warfare, your kid's still away from God, you're still battling depression and you are becoming disillusioned. You're a single parent and you've got no one to help you, no one to share the burden, or your family is in crisis, you're broke, busted, discouraged. What do you do when all you have is not enough?

I'm glad you asked that question. Look with me at the insight we gain from this story. What do you do when all you have is not enough. First of all,

1. Recognize that in His hands, your "not enough" becomes twelve baskets too much! (Verse 12-13). You see, when we bring our weakness, our inadequacies, our shortcomings, our fears and insecurities, our lack, and put it in his hands, he can turn it into abundance. Our inadequacy, in his hands, is the raw material for a miracle! He turns our lack into more than enough!

A lot of us live with that feeling that we are just not good enough. After we've done our best we still feel, at the end of the day, that it wasn't close to adequate. That God couldn't do anything with us and our life because all we have is simply not enough. Let me say it again, in His hands, not enough becomes twelve baskets too much. Stop focusing so much on what you don't have and start focusing on surrendering what you do have to Jesus. Five loaves and two fish? Terrific. Surrender it to Jesus. Put it in his hands. Give it all to Jesus. "But it's not enough!" I know, but in his hands your not enough becomes more than enough.

What do we do when all we have is not enough?

2. Sit down! Sit down? Are you serious? Don't you mean get busy? Work harder? Put more into it? Keep longer hours? Worry more? Pace the floor? No. Sit down. Look at verse 10. **"Jesus said, 'Have the people sit down.' There was plenty of**

grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.”

I'm not advocating laziness. What I mean by sit down is surrender to Jesus. Stop running around in a panic and instead, listen to Jesus and surrender your life to Him. Quiet down, listen to Jesus, obey him and stop worrying and fretting. Trust God and believe in him. Rest in him. Lean upon him. Quit trying to figure it all out yourself and just do what Jesus says to do. He said “sit down” so trust him and sit down and then get ready to receive from his hand. That's what you need to do. You can worry and pace the floor all you want but you'll never worry bread and fish into existence. You can't worry Jesus into performing a miracle in your life. But if you will do what he commands and surrender your life to Him, if you will trust Him and obey Him, you will see his miracle working power in action in your life.

Are you ready to trust Him and rest in Him? Notice, it was only those folks who were seated, only those folks who were obeying Jesus and looking to him as their source that received more than enough. If you had been running around, refusing to sit down, looking for food elsewhere besides looking to Jesus, you would have remained hungry and empty. The key is obedience. If you will trust and obey, he will make the difference. When all you have is not enough, sit down and

3. Put what you have into His hands and He will bless and multiply it. Verse 11. Jesus took the loaves and the fish from the little boy, blessed them, gave thanks and then began to distribute them to those who were seated as much as they wanted! As much as they wanted! Think of that. Abundance! More than enough!

He is the miracle worker. Your job is to get your situation into his hands. You've been trying to fix that mess all on your own for so long but all you have, all your wisdom, all you've been trying to do – it just isn't enough. But if you will stop, sit down, and put all of the pieces into His hands, surrender to Him – he will bless it and meet the need. He has more than enough.

What if the little boy and Andrew had just said, “Let's not bother giving this to Jesus, after all, what good could this little bit do when the need is so great.” Everyone

would have gone hungry. They would have missed the miracle. Give it to Jesus!

You can't do the impossible. Why keep trying? Commit it to Jesus. Somebody, God is talking to you this morning – it's time you surrendered your life, your marriage, your circumstances, your battles, your addiction, to Jesus. Today. Don't wait another moment. What you've got in your hands, get it into his hands, now.

Put your brokenness in his hands. Put that rebellious child in his hands. Put your marriage in his hands. Put your addiction in his hands. Put your fear in his hands. Put your finances in his hands. Put your illness, your wife's illness, your husband's illness, your child's illness, put it in His hands. Put your ideas in his hands.

He is the miracle worker. Do what you are supposed to do – bring what you have and give it all to Jesus, then have faith that He will do what only He can do! Don't hesitate and don't hold back.

Look what happened when they gave all they had to Jesus: He **"...distributed to all who were seated as much as they wanted!"** All they needed and wanted and more besides. You can expect an abundance from the one who said he had come to give us life and that more abundantly. All you have need of is found in Jesus today. He is ready to distribute more than enough. Our "not enough" becomes more than enough in His hands. Believe it. Believe for it. Believe Him. Finally, what do you do when all you have is not enough?

4. Remember Jesus is the great economist: He wastes nothing! Look at verses 12-13. **"When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, 'Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.' So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten."** They gathered up the left overs because nothing was to be wasted. It is interesting that Jesus commanded them specifically, "Let nothing be wasted." Why is that so important?

Because the circumstances you are in, the trials you are going through, this time of testing, none of this will be wasted. Jesus turns affliction into maturity, trial into triumph, the cross into a crown. He is at work in your life, and what the devil meant for evil and for your destruction, God is turning it to good. Trust him. Sit down. Rest in

him.

“Let nothing be wasted” Jesus said. That means he isn’t going to throw you away or leave you behind. That means what you are going through isn’t for nothing, it isn’t without a redeeming purpose. He will let nothing be wasted – no person, no gift, no talent, no opportunity. You may feel like you’ve been cast off, thrown aside because of events in your life. But Jesus says, “Let nothing be wasted.” Jesus isn’t casting you aside, he is calling you to His side. He is gathering you close.

You may feel like circumstances have stretched you to the breaking point. If so, do what Jesus said to do. Don’t panic, instead, obey Him, sit down and rest in him – deliverance is coming. More than enough is just ahead.

What you have – your best – it’s just not enough. That’s okay. In his hands, your not enough becomes more than enough. His blessing, his anointing will make all the difference.

It’s time to come to Jesus. It’s time to surrender your life, your future, your everything to him. Stop trying to manage your life and put it into his hands. You need to start living your life under new management. Today is the day to start. Don’t wait. What you have is not enough. You need to get to Jesus today.

When all you have just isn’t enough, don’t be afraid. In Jesus’ hands, not enough becomes twelve baskets too much!

If you are at that point this morning, where it feels like all you have just isn’t enough, I want to pray with you. I invite you to come to Jesus this morning. Come to the one who has more than you need, more than enough.