

Where Are We to Buy Bread?



John 6:1-14

A great crowd followed Jesus. They followed Jesus for several days; all their food was gone. It was evening in the deserted place. The disciples tried to solve this problematic situation. Jesus knew what he was going to do. It was a crucial moment for Jesus to teach something about our wilderness journey. He didn't want to miss the opportunity. So, he tested Philip, asking: **"Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"** There was no place to buy to feed that vast crowd. Absolute needs were there without any resources. Does this sound familiar to some situations in our lives?

There were three responses to this situation: Philip, Andrew, and the little boy. Think where you belong. Philip's calculation about how much money they might need was rapid. It was impressive, but his conclusion was negative. If we have a similar situation, we panic. We despair with logical calculation and conclude "No, we can't solve this problem." It was the answer of Philip. Did Philip pass the test?

Andrew understood the question, and he knew Jesus would take care of the situation. So, he brought five barley breads and two small fish that a boy gave him, saying, "What good is that with this huge crowd?" To Andrew, it was nonsense. He was skeptical, but still, he brought it to Jesus. It was better than Phillip.

There was one more person. This person was a young boy who brought five barley breads and two fish. He might have been close to Jesus, and have heard about the situation, and he wanted to give all he had. Who was this boy? When I read a book by Sundar Singh, who is a saint in India, it became more evident. Sundar was a person who learned biblical truth directly from Jesus through visions. Sundar asked Jesus about the boy, and Jesus answered, "I healed the boy from an incurable disease. After that, the boy followed me closely wherever I went. He brought all he had to me when he heard that people needed food." It was not a simple offering of a child. The boy's lunch box was loaded and full of humility, gratitude, trust, and heart. The boy wanted to do everything for Jesus. He heard it, and he gave it to Andrew.

What mattered to Jesus was not the quantity of the bread and fish because he could do anything out of nothing. What did Jesus need? Jesus needs something from us. Jesus does not want to work without us. This time, his co-miracle worker was a child with faith and love. The child was a humble and pure human who dedicated all he had. In the spiritual world, no big, small, capable, or incapable person exists. There is only a dedicated or not dedicated person with humility and trust. They become a vehicle of miracles.

Do you have Jesus in your deserted place? Then, include Jesus in your calculation. Give Jesus all you have. Jesus always needs humble trust and obedience from human side. It lets heaven open and lets miracles happen still here and now.

Grace and love,

Pastor Hae-Jeong Yoon