

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I confess with my mouth. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He died on a cross, carried my sins, in His physical body. He bled and died, and rose on the third day. He conquered death. He conquered sin. He conquered demons. He conquered Satan's power. And I am free. I am delivered. I am a child of God. I am an overcomer. The storm will not kill me. The storm is what Jesus is going to use to come to me. And I receive Him, as my Lord and Savior, from this day forward. Jesus is in my boat. I will make it. I can take it. I'm not going under, I'm going over, in Jesus' mighty name.

“Save the Scraps”

So, I want to talk to you for a few moments about this story, because it's interesting how that they go from one miracle to a storm. They go directly from Jesus feeding the 5,000, right into the greatest test and storm that they would ever face. 5,000 men gathered, women, and children besides, in a desert place, in desperate need of the Word of God. As a matter of fact, Deuteronomy said: "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word".

So, they didn't have food, they had the Word of God. Jesus was teaching. Listen to this, and these people had rather have had the Word than bread. If they had to choose, they said, "I'll take the Word over bread to eat". Shows a tremendous hunger for the Word of God. If you've got a hunger for the Word of God, God will always supply your needs. And the Bible said that when the disciples told them how weak they were, how hungry they were, and the people hadn't eaten; they were concerned.

Jesus said: "They need not depart". They don't have to leave Me. They came for the Word, but I can give them Word and bread. And Jesus said to them, "What do you have"? Point number one, the miracle always begins with what you have. When you recognize what you have, then God can multiply it. It's not in what you don't have. He's saying, "The first key to receiving My provision for your life, no matter what kind of storm or season you're going through or facing, is recognize what you have". Because when you recognize what you have, then God can multiply it.

Isn't it ironic that they did not count the women and the children. I think it's very ironic, because the one that they didn't count was the one that God used to bring the miracle. God uses people that other people don't count. God uses people that other people discount. God uses people that other people say are unimportant, so unimportant, they don't even count. But that's the very one, the little lad that had five loaves and two fish, he was the one that nobody counted, but everyone discounted. He's just a kid with five slices of bread and two fish, but the one that God counted.

Jesus said to them, "Separate into groups of 50". Now, this is going to take a while. You've got 5,000 men, plus women, plus children, a minimum of 20,000 people. Why in the world would you take the time to separate them into groups of 50? Because sometimes, the best miracles take time. Sometimes, we need to understand that God's best miracles are not driven by need or necessity or hunger. When God is doing something big in your life, you can't rush God. That's why the Bible said: "You have need of patience, that after you have done the will of God, you might obtain the promise". God's best miracles take time. Sometimes, you have got to have order and structure.

Many times, we're saying, "God, bless me with more", and we're mishandling what we have. God doesn't give you more according to what you ask for, He gives you more according to what you can manage. And if you can't manage what you've got right now, why would God give you more to squander? And He said, "I want you to have a structure that can maintain the magnitude of the blessing that I want to pour into your life". And the Bible said that they brought Jesus the bread, they gave Him what they had, and Jesus took it, the Bible said, and He blessed it. He's blessing what is not enough. He's blessing five loaves of bread, and two fish.

And the Bible said that when He took it, and He blessed it. Two fish, five loaves. Nothing had multiplied. Nothing had increased. It wasn't until he did something: He took the bread, and He broke it. And when He broke it, and started handing it to the disciples to distribute, as He broke it, He began to lose count. The blessing is in the breaking. It wasn't until it was broken, that it began to multiply. That which refuses to be broken, refuses to be blessed. It is in the breakings of life that produces the blessings of life.

Some of the most blessed people that you will ever meet, have gone through something that broke them before they got

to the blessing. Because the blessing is hidden in the breaking. The more that He broke it, the more it multiplied. He would break it, and break it, and break it, and it would multiply. Every time He broke it, it multiplied in His hands. Oh, people of God, if you allow God to put you through some breaking, it will not destroy you. It is to bless you because the breaking is what brings the blessing.

Now, I want to ask you a question: have you thanked God for every time God broke you? Every time God snapped you. Every time God put you through a season of brokenness. God wasn't killing you. God was blessing you. Every time you were rejected. Every time you were alienated. Every time you were disappointed. Every time you were cursed. Every time you were told no. Every time your heart was broken. Broken homes, broken hearts, broken families, broken hopes. The greatest blessings come out of the hardest breakings, and that's why we don't get discouraged.

A preacher with a sermon that touches hearts, has been through the breaking process. You cannot feed other people the Bread of Life without going through brokenness, again, and again, and again. Even the Preacher hopes for things to be good and peaceful. But just when they think everything's good, God says, "I really need to use you again. And in order for me to use you again, to make the Holy Word relevant and penetrating to the cold frozen heart of my people, I'm gonna give you and have a transformational effect, I got to get you in another time of brokenness." So, when you say, "God, use me"! You think that means God's gonna give you a robe and a microphone, and let you have an easy time of it. Nooooo... He's gonna break you. You have no idea of the cost of being called to preach the Word of God, ministry costs. It's a continual breaking. It never stops. Jesus does not feed the multitude directly. He breaks it, and gives it to His disciples, His friends, and He says, "You go feed 'them'".

When you learn to be grateful, even when what you have is not enough, then God can begin to multiply not enough into more than enough. Until you can be thankful for something that is not enough, it cannot be multiplied into more than enough. You'll never see the multiplication as long as you're ungrateful, but when you become thankful for what God has given you, as little as it is, little is much when God is in it. I wish somebody would just, right now, say, "Lord, I'm thankful. I don't have everything that I wish I had, but I'm thankful for what I've got". That's when the miracle starts.

Then the disciples feed the people. Notice that the blessing passes through your hands, not from your hands. Many of you have been blessed. There're some blessed people under the sound of my voice, but I've come to remind you that the blessings that you're experiencing do not come from your hands, they come from Jesus' hands, they come through your hands. And don't ever get it mixed up. Be careful to give God the praise and the glory because any blessings that you are participating in is not your doing, it came from the hand of Jesus, and is flowing through your hand. You need to learn to eat God's blessing, even if God brings it through somebody else's hand. God will even feed you and bless you sometimes through people who don't even like you, through the enemy's hands. Prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. "I don't know why I'm doing this". Hallelujah.

Jesus could have stopped breaking it at the point the 5,000 were fed, but the real power of the text is not in what they ate, the real power of the text is in what they had left. He purposely designed it so that there would be leftovers.

Now, a real good chef, I'm not talking about Grandma, a real good chef can get a count of the guests and prepare the food in proportion to the people. God never misses. If he wanted to be precise, he could have been precise. He chose for them to have overflow. Don't let people tell you that God just wants to give you enough. His name, El Shaddai, means more than enough. Why would a God whose name means more than enough stop at enough? Why would David say, "My cup runneth over"? A server can see when the cup is full and stops pouring in proportion to the size of the cup, but God says when I pour you out a blessing, I am not limited to your capacity to receive what I have, I intend for you to have overflow, so that your children, and your children's children, and your children's children's children will be blessed.

So, Jesus says, here's my dilemma, here's my whole case this morning. Jesus says to them, when the whole event is over, and everybody's about to leave, Jesus speaks to the disciples and says, "Gather up the scraps". And the Bible is careful to give us inventory of how much they had left, 12 baskets full left, now, that's overcooking. When you got 12 baskets full left, you didn't count right. Twelve baskets full were left and they loaded them on the boat to leave. Now, here's my dilemma. Why did he have them gather the scraps? I would like to think, in my mind, that maybe he thought they would get hungry again, but my problem with that is, if they were scraps, fish bones, half-eaten pieces, crust off the bread, it

doesn't seem very appetizing that gathered leftovers stored in baskets could be preserved for a future meal. In the presence of a God who created something out of nothing, why do we need to make these kinds of provisions for the next meal when we didn't provide the first meal?

Why save the scraps? They loaded the scraps on the boat, 12 baskets full. It had been a long day for Jesus, perhaps one of the most important days of His ministerial career, because every other miracle, no matter how mighty or magnanimous it may have been, this particular miracle has distinction, because this was the first time, He had impacted that many people at once. Five-thousand people had a piece of the miracle in their body. Five-thousand people now hit the streets talking about what happened. This is not like blind Bartimaeus, this is not like the woman with the issue of blood, this is not like Lazarus, this is not like the man in the tomb of Gadarenes where one person left screaming, "Come see a man," 5,000 men, not to mention the women and children, have now hit the streets talking about, "Let me tell you what happened at church today".

He knew that once he impacted these 5,000 men, plus women and children, that the news would spread rapidly, and with the blessing comes the burden of being blessed. Everybody wants the more, you know, give me more fish, and give me more bread. Everybody wants the light, but they can't take the heat. When you get more of one thing, you get more of another. So, at the end of a long day, Jesus now goes to the mountain to pray. I imagine he's saying, "Well, Father, I've done it now. I have set it off. Twenty-thousand witnesses have been dispatched into every village, every town, and every city with a personal testimony, with the miracle in their belly, proof positive that I am God in the flesh. There's no turning back".

I'm telling you today, that if you're going through a storm, you're in that storm by divine instructions. And God does not intend for you to go down, He intends for you to receive something in the storm. There was a lot of people. The multitude were burping on blessings. They had just eaten fish and chips, and they were happy, and the disciples wanted to stay there. But Jesus was about to show 12 of them what they would never see on the shore. Some of you are about to see things in the storm that other people burping on the blessings, on the land, never get to see. When God allows you to go through a storm, it is not to destroy you. It's to show you who He is on another dimension and level, that you've never seen Him move before. Everybody, give God a praise for just a moment. Hallelujah.

See? When Jesus came walking on the water, the Wave Walker, walked out to the boat, and He got on the boat. He was not upset at them, because they were in a storm. He said, "I'm disappointed you did not consider the miracle of the fish and the loaves". He's saying, "Why didn't you, I had you loaded down with 12 baskets, so while you were fighting the storm, you would be reminded God is faithful. God can do it, God can make a way". And I'm saying to every one of you, you need to, what is that on your coat? It's breadcrumbs from the last miracle that you just came from, and you're freaking out 'cause you got a bad doctor's report. Or you're freaking out because you've got a financial crisis.

Well, let me give you a news flash. You didn't have nothing when God found you. He gave you the job, He gave you the opportunity, and if you go back down to nothing, if you've got God, you can get it all back. Your power is not in where you are, your power is in where you have been. And He did not want them to forget the miracle of the fish and the loaves. The only reason He gave them leftovers was so they would remember where He brought them from. If you're going to survive the storms of life, you have to constantly remember where God brought you from.

And so, today, the leftovers, if you would reach back and get some breadcrumbs from the previous miracles of how God opened doors, of how God provided, of how God healed you, the previous crumbs, the crumbs of previous miracles, if you would just reach down in the bag, because you didn't get in the storm without some testimony. And nobody can tell your testimony like you can. But remember where He brought you from, and where He's able to take you to. And don't let what you see defeat you. He has not given you the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. And He's saying, "Reach back, and remember what I've done for you. I will not fail you now".

I want you to thank Him for what is not enough right now, knowing that He'll multiply into more than enough. Remember to **Save the Scraps!** Amen!

