

Empowered to be a Blessing

John 6:1-13 (NLT)

¹After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. ²A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. ³Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. ⁴(It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) ⁵Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" ⁶He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!" ⁸Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. ⁹"There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" ¹⁰"Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So, they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. ¹²After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." ¹³So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

Mark 16:15

"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all the creation."

1. God Is In Control.

John 6:6 (NLT)

"But he was saying this only to test him, for He Himself knew what he intended to do."

God doesn't need the money we possess to accomplish His mission.

God doesn't need us for His already victorious mission, but He does invite us to participate, to join Him in victory.

2. God Is About Multiplication.

John 6:10-11(NLT)

¹⁰ “Tell everyone to sit down,” Jesus said. So, they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish.

He takes that which is insufficient and uses it to accomplish His purpose.

Our God can take whatever is given in faith and multiply its impact in unfathomable ways for His mission.

3. Multiplication Often Requires Trust.

Giving and holding possessions loosely requires trust that God will use the resources for his purposes.

4. Multiplication Often Requires Sacrifice.

Genesis 4:4 (NLT)

⁴ Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift,

God uses the sacrifice to shape the giver’s heart and advance His Kingdom.

5. Multiplication is a Result of God’s Work, Not Our Work.

John 6:12-13 (NLT)

¹² After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” ¹³ So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

God wants us to trust him with our possessions and work to advance his Kingdom.