

DCF:

There’s nothing better than to have someone give you exactly what you need when you need it, even before you think of it. Take for example a good surgical tech. She knows the tools the surgeon needs without being asked. She knows when he needs a scalpel and is ready to give it to him before he reaches out his hand. She knows when he needs the forceps. She knows when he needs the retractor. A good doctor appreciates the surgical tech who knows his needs. A bricklayer appreciates the helper who supplies the bricks and mortar at just the right time. A dad appreciates his daughter who hands him the right tool as he’s fixing the car. A Christian appreciates the Savior who gives us what we need every moment in our lives.

Do we? So often we’re zooming through life so fast that we forget what Jesus is doing. We’re so focused on our careers, our vacations and our hobbies that we forget who is right beside us at all times. Even more, we forget just how much He cares for us and helps us. So, let’s take some time today to slow down and focus on Jesus. “**HE KNOWS WHAT WE NEED**” in all areas of our lives and in love supplies them.

Part One: In all areas of our lives

If I were to ask you to name a miracle that Jesus did while He was here on earth, this is the one that would probably pop into your mind first. Most of us heard of this miracle as we grew up, didn’t we? Our Sunday School teachers taught us. Perhaps we colored the picture that they gave us. It’s very visual, and it stuck with us. And who wouldn’t connect with the idea of a free lunch? This miracle certainly shows us the power of God. With this miracle, Jesus once again proves to the world that He truly is God.

But there’s more to this miracle than that. Yes, Jesus does prove that He is God, but it also shows us something else. It shows us that He is always aware of what we need in all areas of our lives.

Those people who followed Jesus that day certainly didn’t know what they needed. They followed Jesus to the far shore of the Sea of Tiberias simply because “***they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick.***” They left their homes and hoofed it into the wilderness where there were no fast food joints, no roadside diners. It’s as if they went camping and forgot to pack their coolers. Five thousand men and their families and no one thought they might need to eat before they got back home. Well, except for one boy. And perhaps it was his mom who packed him a lunch before he set out! It’s very clear that these people weren’t aware of their physical needs before they left that day.

Even worse, these people weren’t aware of their spiritual needs. Mark 6 describes them as “***sheep without a shepherd.***” Jesus had compassion on them because they didn’t know Him as their Savior. They didn’t know about God’s gift of free and full forgiveness for all their sins. Steeped in work righteousness, they didn’t know that what they did wasn’t going to get them into heaven. They were spiritually lost, and didn’t know it. They didn’t know what they were missing. But Jesus did. He knew what they needed in all areas of their lives.

Do you know what you need for life? There’s an entire industry related to planning for our physical needs. You’ve probably checked with them. We’ve checked with our guidance counselors, our financial planners and our doctors. We’ve set up a plan for the physical portion of our lives. We may think we’ve got life figured out, but then disaster hits. We lose our job. We get into an accident and spend months in rehab. We find out we have a serious disease. And we believe that what we need is relief from all these things. But what if? If all the bad things are removed from our lives, what will happen to our faith? Perhaps the Lord knows that we need to struggle in life to keep our faith in Him. If life was so easy, why would we ever think we needed God?

You see, the Lord knows what we need physically, but more importantly, He knows what we need spiritually. By ourselves, we have no clue what we need spiritually. We were dead in our trespasses and sins. We were blind, wandering around in the darkness of sin and unbelief. We were like the apostle Thomas who said to Jesus “***How can we know the way?***” to heaven. Jesus knew we needed forgiveness and peace when we did not. He knew we needed a relationship with Him, the gift of faith, even before He gave it to us. He knows we need His strength, His comfort, His presence in our lives.

Even today, after coming to faith, there are times we don't know what we need spiritually. But Jesus does. And in love, Jesus supplies them.

Part Two: In love He supplies them

What would you do if 5,000 men and their families showed up at your door for dinner? You might close the door thinking that "it's not my problem." You might say to yourself "They're just a bunch of freeloaders. They want what's mine and I'm not giving it to them." Or, you might empty your freezer in an attempt to feed them. That wouldn't go far, but at least you tried. The disciples looked at the problem and their solution was "send them to the surrounding towns so they could try and feed themselves."

Jesus had another solution. Turns out He had a plan all along. 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.*** ¹¹ ***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.*** ¹² ***When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."*** ¹³ ***So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.*** He supplied their physical needs, didn't He? Jesus used this miracle to not only meet their physical needs, but to teach His followers to trust in Him to meet those needs.

And, He did this out of love for them. Not only did Jesus solve their physical needs for that day, He would also solve their spiritual needs. Soon, He would journey to Jerusalem to suffer and die on the cross for their sins. He would send the apostles out with His powerful Word to create and strengthen people's faith in Him as their Savior. He would give to them the gift of eternal life. He would give them the solution to their every spiritual need. He gave them Himself.

Did they learn this? Sadly, not many if any did. ¹⁴ ***After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."*** ¹⁵ ***Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.*** They focused just on the physical blessings that Jesus provided. Free food! We won't have to work another day in our lives.

Do we sometimes focus just on the physical blessings that Jesus provides for us? We know that He does. He's given us our very lives. He's given us the ability to earn a living and enjoy life here on earth. He provides for us every day, giving us sunshine and air. He blesses us with friends and family, laughter and joy, rest and relaxation.

Today, may we also thank Jesus for the spiritual blessings He continues to pour into our lives. He continues to send the Holy Spirit through the Word to keep us in the faith. He continues to satisfy our need for forgiveness, washing away the guilt that so often stains our hearts. ***"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."*** He continues to move us to be kind and gentle towards others. ***"Love your neighbor as yourself."*** He strengthens us when the tough times come. ***"I can do all things through Him who strengthens us."*** He gives us peace in our hearts when the storms of life come crashing down upon us. ***"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, for those who are called according to His purpose."*** At the right time, in just the right amount, our Savior will fill our spiritual needs. What we need today, He'll give to us today. What we need tomorrow, He'll give it to us then. Trust Him.

A good surgical tech is a blessing. She knows what the doctor needs even before he does. The same can be said for a good bricklayer helper or a daughter who's helping you fix the car. How much more of a blessing do each and every one of us have in Jesus! ***"HE KNOWS WHAT WE NEED"*** in all areas of our lives, even before we realize it. And, in love He supplies them.

Today, may we thank our Savior for being who He is - our loving, all supplying Lord!
AMEN