

Apprenticing Jesus- A Series through the Gospel of Luke

Sermon Title: What You Supply He Can Multiply

Sermon Synopsis: In a seemingly impossible situation (feeding the 5,000) the Disciples are stuck and incapable of handling the task, Jesus takes what the disciples supply and multiplies! (feeding the 5,000)

Sermon Themes: compassion, provision, power, dependency, hope

Luke 9:10-17 (ESV)

¹⁰ On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. ¹¹ When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.

¹² Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, “Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place.” ¹³ But he said to them, “You give them something to eat.” They said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.” ¹⁴ For there were about five thousand men.

And he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” ¹⁵ And they did so, and had them all sit down. ¹⁶ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.

¹⁷ And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Pray-

Introduction- Costco Pizza

¹⁰ On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. ¹¹ When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.

- Carry over from last week- sent ones,
- Both excited and exhausted
- Withdrew- to a desolate place
- The masses knew, pursued Jesus
- Jesus welcomed them- compassion, sheep w/out a shepherd
- Let's be real- 5000 needy men and their families (people on the fence)
 - If I'm on the boat (3 options)...would my response have been annoyance at the interruption in my plan?

What does Jesus style "welcoming" look like- Paul tells us:

Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Personally convicted on this one. My busyness can lead to a tunnel vision that blurs my "welcoming lens", causes me to not be present & connected....anyone else too distracted?

AP-What difference would it make in other's lives if we were able to put on these things in our marriages, our families, workplaces, schools- what if we went out today and committed to this week praying for and stepping into a Colossians 3:12-17 lens this week

The Problem

¹² Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." ¹³ But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴ For there were about five thousand men.

Big task- humanly impossible (fill up the Staples Center/UCSB enrollment)

- Not enough resources- food or money- looking at what they lack
- John 6:6 (this was a test)- do you think he's testing you?
- No Jesus-

Obstacles that we aren't able to resolve in our lives...Stuck trying to humanly figure things out. 5,000 men and families to feed and only have 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish is a big need.

But what about us here in this room, how many of us have stuck places, relational, physical, financial, spiritual.....causing fear, discouragement, anxiety, stress

How many of us try to desperately fix things on our own, but never take our needs to Jesus. Look at the apostles, they were in the same boat and didn't ask him for help.

Q- Where are you personally stuck & not relying on the power of God to intercede?

The Solution

And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵ And they did so, and had them all sit down. ¹⁶ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.

- Bring what they have
- Sitting down required obedience & faith- ready for dinner
- Jesus modeled going to the Father in gratitude
- Jesus didn't do it on His own- works through disciples

AP- Bring What you Have- This is an invitation this morning- Jesus is saying come to me, don't have to have it all together, don't have to have the answers just bring what you have, it will take a step of faith, it may be uncomfortable, but step in

- If you need a relationship restored bring what you have
- If you have a challenging situation at work or school bring what you have
- If you lack boldness in sharing your faith bring what you have
- Whatever your obstacle is, bring what you have

What you SUPPLY He can MULTIPLY 5/2 to feed 5000

¹⁷ And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

- Not just tided over- satisfied & flowing over
- Kept supplying, kept supplying
- Supplying every need- Physical, emotional & spiritual

Q- what do you think the disciples would have missed out on if they got their way? See God in all his Glory, see people on the fence follow Jesus, see faith grow,

Q- what about you if you don't take a step of faith? ,

The Way Forward-

- Approach Jesus with gratitude
- Bring what you have
- Take a step of faith

Benediction

Ephesians 3:20-21 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.