

I. Welcome & Review

- A. Good morning! Ohaiyogozaimasu! Happy Father's Day to all our dads in attendance today. It's great to be here with you all as we seek to worship and glorify our Heavenly Father. I pray God blesses each of you.

1. *Welcome any visitors and those streaming online.*

- B. Before we continue in our study, let's go ahead and dismiss our elementary aged children to their Sunday School classes.

1. [\(Second Service: Bible English class as well\)](#)

- C. As the kids make their way out, will the rest of you please open up your Bible and make your way to John chapter 6?

- D. This morning we come to a portion of scripture that I imagine many of you are very familiar with. Our text this morning will cover one of the few events that is actually recorded in all four of the gospel records; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all write about this particular event with each gospel writer giving us their own perspective and highlighting different details.

1. This event is the only event that is actually recorded in all four of the gospels prior to the Triumphal Entry. From the Triumphal Entry, on into the details of the Passion week, there is a lot of lap over, but prior to then, this portion we are covering this morning is the only other event that the Holy Spirit led each of the gospel writers to write about.
2. Knowing this is the case, ought to make us realize just how important this event is and hopefully it piques our interest in wanting to learn as much as we can from it.

- E. Our text this morning is going to be John chapter 6 vs. 1-13 and the title of our message is going to be **"Five Loaves and Two Fish"**.

1. If you haven't figured it out by now, the event we will be covering this morning is of course the feeding of the 5,000. Where Jesus will take five loaves, two fish, and create one incredible miracle that ministered to thousands of people.
2. Hopefully you all are there in John chapter 6 by now. At this time I'd like to invite you all to rise to your feet in honor of the Lord and His Word.
3. I'm going to be reading from the NKJV of the Bible. If you are reading from a different translation, that is fine, just do your best to follow along in your Bible, as I read from mine.
4. John tells us his account of the details regarding the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 with the following in vs. 1... (R & P)

II. Intro

- A. Our account this morning opens up with the phrase "After these things", but doesn't give us much of the details of what happened prior to these things.

1. Last week in ch. 5, Jesus healed a paralytic who had regularly gathered at the Pool of Bethesda just outside the city gates of Jerusalem.

2. This healing took place on the Sabbath and ended up getting the attention of the religious authorities.

3. Jesus used this opportunity to confront the religious authorities and to make some very bold claims which He then proceeded to back up with several different witnesses that could testify of the claims He made.

- B. If we were to read John's gospel as an ongoing chronological account it would lead us to think that the events of chapter 6 must have occurred immediately following the events of chapter 5. After all, chapter 6 begins with "After these things" and the things John just wrote about were the healing of the paralytic man and the confronting of the religious authorities.

1. But when we look at the other gospel accounts, we realize that the "After these things" actually covers a span of time where a number of different events took place.

2. As we'll note later on in our text, we are in a totally different location at this time. The events of chapter 5 took place in Jerusalem, while the events here in chapter 6 take place in the region of Galilee.

3. Much has taken place chronologically between the end of chapter 5 and the beginning of chapter 6.

- a. If you were to look at a side by side comparison, or a harmony of the gospels you'd discover that many things are lumped up in that phrase "After these things."

- b. After these things includes such things as:

- i. Jesus' selection of the twelve disciples
- ii. Jesus' famous "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew chapters 5-7.
- iii. Various healings from the Centurion's daughter, to the raising of the widow from Nain's son back to life. There was the healing of Jairus' daughter and the woman who had an issue of bleeding that lasted for 12 years being healed. People being healed of demonic possession and demons being cast into swine.
- iv. The sending out of the disciples in pairs to go preach the gospel and do the work of the ministry. Where they were able to do some of the same healings Jesus had performed as people responded in faith to their message.
- v. John the Baptist would be imprisoned and subsequently beheaded by King Herod.

- c. All this happened during the "After these things" of verse 1.

- C. Being able to cross reference and consider the other gospel accounts helps us to get a fuller, deeper, and richer understanding of all that was going on during the days of Jesus' earthly ministry.

1. We understand that each gospel writer, though all inspired by the Holy Spirit, had different target audiences and different things the Holy Spirit led them to record.

2. It's when we put all four gospels together, we get the full picture of the life and ministry of Christ. And so, as we go through this account of John's details surrounding the event known as the feeding of the 5,000, we will do our best to glean what we can from John's account, while also being mindful of what the other gospel writers tell us about this account as well.
 3. My hope in doing so is to get a broader picture of this event, that we may glean from it all that the Spirit of God wants to show us and teach us this day.
- D. So, with that, let's take a look at our opening verses once again. John writes in verses 1-3 the following:
- III. John 6:1-3;
- A. So, here we are back in the region of Galilee, and we are told that Jesus, along with His disciples, went over the Sea of Galilee and that a great multitude followed them.
1. What we don't get in John's gospel is the account of what took place immediately before this and what made Jesus and His disciples want to get in a boat and cross the Sea of Galilee in the first place.
- B. Two major events took place just prior to this that are recorded for us in the other gospels.
1. According to Matthew's gospel, news of John the Baptist's beheading had just made its way to Jesus. John the Baptist was someone Jesus loved and respected so after hearing this news Matthew tells us that one of the reasons Jesus wanted to get in a boat and cross over the Sea of Galilee was to get away from the multitude, to a deserted place. **(Mt. 14:13a)**
 2. The other major event that coincided with Jesus hearing this news was the return of the 12 disciples from their ministry tour where they were sent out two by two. They came back to Jesus at the same time Jesus heard about John the Baptist's beheading.
 - a. They were very excited to tell Jesus all about what happened on their trips, but there were so many people coming and going, vying for Jesus' attention, that it made it nearly impossible to hear the reports of the disciples. **(Mk. 6:30)**
 - b. So Jesus suggested that they head across the Sea of Galilee to get away to a deserted place and get some rest. For they had been so busy with all the people coming and going that they didn't even have time to eat. **(Mk. 6:31)**
- C. So, from the other gospel accounts we see the reason for why they were crossing the Sea of Galilee in the first place; Jesus and His disciples were trying to get away for some much-needed quiet time.
1. They were trying to get away from the multitudes to a deserted place where they could rest, get something to eat, share testimonies, and grieve the loss of a partner in the ministry.

2. In life, there are times where we may need to do the same. Where we may need to take a break, a time out, and just get away for some peace and quiet, to get away from all the noise and give ourselves an opportunity to reset, to refocus, to rest.
3. Jesus knew the importance of rest. The disciples had just returned from their journeys Jesus had sent them on. They had done all sorts of ministry, there were all sorts of people, things were happening, people were coming and going, things were busy. Ministry was happening; things were good in that sense.
4. But Jesus saw the need for them to get away to a place where they could be alone with Him and get some rest.
5. Often times we associate rest with certain places. I know I do.
 - a. Farah and I have a couple of different places that we go for some much-needed R&R. Whether it's up into the mountains for some camping at 7 Falls, or heading over to the cabins on Suo Oshima, or just going for a walk through Kikko Park. Those times can be so refreshing and beneficial.
6. Jesus knew the importance of rest, but He also knew and understood that true rest doesn't come from a place. It comes from a person. It comes from Him.
 - a. Jesus got away, up to a deserted place on the mountains off the shore of the Sea of Galilee and sat there with His disciples according to verse 3 of our text.
 - b. Jesus wanted them not just to get away to a deserted place to find rest. But to get away with Him, to find rest.
 - c. In Matthew 11:28-29 Jesus states, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." **(Mt. 11:28-29)**
 - d. True rest comes when we spend time with Jesus. When we take time out of our busy schedule to meet with Him, we will find the rest we are looking for, we will find what our weary souls long for.
 - e. Jesus wanted His disciples to get away from the busyness of the day, of the ministry, and spend time with Him. The things they were doing were good, but it wasn't as important as spending time alone with Jesus.
 - f. Serving the Lord is important, but spending time with the Lord is an imperative. If we don't take the time to meet with Jesus and find our rest in Him, we will eventually burn ourselves out and run ourselves into the ground.
 - g. We need to make spending time with the Lord a priority in our lives if we want to continue to be effective for Him.

- h. We can't get so caught up in serving the Lord, serving our family, serving our church, serving one another, that we fail to take time out of our schedule to spend with the Lord.
- 7. The Lord wants to meet with us. **He wants us to find our rest in Him.** He knows and understands the need to get away for some quiet time with Him. May we be faithful to work those things into our schedule on a regular basis.
 - a. It doesn't have to be weekends away, it doesn't have to even be a major event that takes all day long to complete.
 - b. It can be 20 minutes in the morning before the rest of the day gets going. It can be some time at the end of your day before going to sleep, it can be during the kids nap time, or during school time, during your lunch hour.
 - c. We all have the same 24 hours to work with. We need to make sure we are setting aside time to meet with the Lord, to find our rest in Him, to be refreshed by Him and filled back up by Him.
- D. Though they were trying to get away from the multitudes, vs. 2 of our text tells us that the multitudes followed Jesus and we are told why they followed Jesus as well.
 - 1. They didn't follow Jesus because they wanted to yield their lives to Him and place their hope and faith in Him. They followed Him because they saw the signs which He performed on those who were diseased.
 - 2. Though not recorded in John's gospel, Jesus has been doing a lot of circuit ministry throughout the region of Galilee and during such He had healed a number of people from their diseases and sicknesses.
 - 3. It was quite the show to see people who were blind, lame, mute, diseased and demon possessed being healed from their ailments and infirmities. People were amazed. They wanted to see more.
 - 4. They were excited to see what other sorts of signs and wonders He would perform; no doubt hoping that He could be the One they've been looking for to lead them out from under the thumb of the Roman Empire and the oppression they experienced under Rome's control.
 - 5. So, even though Jesus and the disciples were trying to get away from the multitudes, the multitudes kept following them, wanting to see more, wanting to see whether or not Jesus would prove to be the One they were hoping for, the Messiah to come, the Son of David who would reestablish the kingdom of Israel and reign as king over them.
- E. Well, let's continue in our text and read what happened next.
- IV. John 6:4-6;
 - A. We are told that the Passover was near at the opening of vs. 4. This is the second time now that John has mentioned the Passover specifically by name.
 - 1. He will of course mention the Passover again during the final week of Jesus' life before going to the cross.

- 2. This lets us know that Jesus' earthly ministry had to have lasted a span of about three years when you include the ministry that took place prior to the first mention of the Passover and the ministry that took place after the third Passover mentioned by John.
- 3. The other gospels only specifically mention one Passover, the one where Jesus laid down His life for all of humanity as God's Passover lamb. Without John's details mentioned here, it would be easy to conclude that Jesus earthly ministry was much shorter.
- 4. But because John gives us these little details we can gain a better overall picture of the life and ministry of Jesus and how it covered three different years of events.
- B. Well, verse 5 tells us that while Jesus and His disciples were sitting together up on the mountainside that Jesus lifted up His eyes and saw the great multitude coming toward Him. Their time alone with the Lord didn't last too long, but how each of them responded was very telling.
 - 1. Again, we have to look to the other accounts to read of how Jesus and His disciples responded to the multitudes following after them and finding them in this deserted place.
 - 2. Mark's gospel tells us that when Jesus saw the multitudes, He "was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd." (**Mk. 6:34**)
 - a. Jesus desired to care for them and minister to them. He put His own desires to meet with the disciples to the side, so that He might minister to those who were lost, those who were helpless, those who were without guidance, without nourishment, without protection.
 - b. The people needed someone to meet those needs and Jesus had a heart to do so. He truly exemplified the heart of a shepherd. A shepherd puts the needs of the sheep above his own.
 - c. And Jesus exemplified this for us over and over again throughout His earthly ministry. Ultimately laying down His own life for ours. Dying upon the cross to meet our greatest need; the forgiveness of sins.
 - d. This was the mind of Christ, and it is what He wants for us as well.
 - e. **Philippians 2:3-5** declares, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,".
 - f. As followers of Christ, we ought to be willing to esteem others better ourselves; to not only look out for our own interests, but to have concern and compassion towards the needs and interests of others. Jesus wants us to follow His example; **to die to ourselves and selflessly serve others.**

3. Well, the other gospel accounts let us know that Jesus taught the people and healed their sick and that this went on for a good chunk of time so that it began to get a little late in the day.
4. And that is when we see the hearts of the disciples and how they viewed the multitudes.
 - a. The disciples came to Jesus and told Jesus that it was getting late and, "in the interest of the multitudes own needs", that Jesus should send them away so that they could get something to eat and find a place to shelter since they were in a deserted place.
 - b. Luke 9 records for us what the disciples thought about the multitudes, it reads, "When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to [Jesus], 'Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here.'" (Lk. 9:12)
 - c. Jesus looked upon the multitudes with compassion and saw them as sheep without a shepherd, and desired to minister to their needs. The disciples looked at the multitudes and wanted to send them away so that they didn't have to worry about them any longer; to them the multitudes were seen as a problem, as a bunch of needy people. Needy people that just sucked the life right out of them.
 - d. The disciples were excited to get alone with the Lord, to spend some quality time with Him, to tell Him all the details of what happened while they were out preaching and teaching and healing the people. They had been so busy themselves that *they* didn't get an opportunity to eat and this time away was supposed to be just that.
 - e. But it turned into another long day of ministry. And as the day drew to an end, the disciples saw the multitudes as a problem.
 - f. Now it doesn't say this in any of the accounts, but I wonder, if their idea to send the people away under the guise of concern for the people's physical needs for food and shelter, wasn't just an excuse the disciples came up with.
 - g. They left to get away from the multitudes, to spend some time with Jesus, to rest and to get a bite to eat. I can't help but think, that perhaps the disciples were like, "*Man, I'm hungry. These people need to go, so we can eat.*"
 - h. I imagine the disciples were a little upset, a little agitated, perhaps disturbed by the great multitude. Think about it really. These guys are tired and their hungry.
 - i. How do you treat people when you're tired and hungry and they are keeping you from getting food and rest? Usually not very well.
 - j. Tired and hungry is not a good combination. I don't know about you, but when I'm tired and hungry, I'm usually not the best of company.
5. So we see these differences towards the multitudes. Jesus was moved with compassion and wanted to meet their needs. The disciples were

agitated, tired and hungry and just saw them as needy people standing in the way of what they wanted. Such a stark contrast.

- C. After hearing the disciples' idea of sending the people away is when Jesus came to Philip in verse 5 of our text saying, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?".
 1. I wonder why the Lord chose to ask Philip that question among all the other disciples. Some suggest that perhaps it was because Philip was from around that area. Luke's gospel tells us that the deserted place they went to belonged to the city of Bethsaida. (Lk. 9:10b)
 2. And John's gospel tells us that Philip was from Bethsaida. But the interesting thing is that both Peter and Andrew were also from that same city. Why not ask Peter or Andrew? Or why not all three of them? I imagine that between the three of them they would have known of a place in the area where they could buy some bread. (Jn. 1:44)
 3. Instead, Jesus just asked Philip. "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?". But verse 6 tells us that Jesus said this to Philip as a test for Philip to see how Philip would respond, even though Jesus already knew what He was going to do.
 4. So Jesus was wanting to test Philip. He wanted to see how he would respond to the situation. To see what solution he would come up with for the problem the disciples brought to Him regarding the people's need for food.
 5. Jesus will do the same in our lives as well. He will put us in situations to test our faith, to see how we will respond in certain situations. To see if we will rely upon Him and His resources, or if we will try to rely upon ourselves and our own resources.
 6. He will allow us to face difficulties and obstacles, to test us and to see how we will respond. Where will we go? What will we do? To whom will we look when we are faced with a seemingly impossible situation?
- D. Well, let's read how Philip responds in verse 7.
- V. John 6:7;
 - A. Instead of answering Jesus' question of *where* to buy bread, Philip immediately jumped to the question of *how* to buy bread.
 1. Even if Philip did know a place or two to get that much bread (which is highly unlikely), Philip's immediate response was to question how they could even afford to do such a thing.
 2. He said, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."
 - a. Now, 200 denarii was a lot of money. One denarii was considered equal to about one day's wages for the common laborer. So 200 denarii was roughly equivalent to about 8 months of wages for a common laborer.
 - b. Putting that into today's economy we can appreciate and understand a little better what Philip was saying.

- i. According to sites like ZipRecruiter and Indeed the baseline for daily on demand tasks is equivalent to about \$150/day. Times that by 200 days and you're looking at about roughly \$30,000.
 - c. Philip was like "\$30,000 worth of bread wouldn't be enough to feed all the people just a little bit."
 - 3. That's a lot of "bread", both literally and figuratively.
 - B. Philip's solution was to try and throw money at the situation. He immediately thought if they had enough money the problem could be solved.
 - 1. A lot of people have that kind of mentality. They think that if they just had enough money all their problems would go away. They think that all problems and obstacles can be solved if you just put enough money towards it.
 - 2. But that wasn't what Jesus had in mind. Jesus didn't just want Philip to try and throw money at the problem to see if it would fix it. He wanted to teach Philip a lesson, he wanted Philip to learn that he could trust Jesus with impossible tasks, with impossible situations.
 - 3. Because that is what he was facing. Obviously, Philip, nor any of the other disciples collectively, didn't have this kind of money just lying around on them. It wasn't something they could afford to do. Plus, there probably wasn't even a place (or places) close by, where they could even buy 8 months' salary worth of bread.
 - 4. What Jesus was asking of Philip was something that was impossible for him to do. His resources were insufficient. And I believe that was the point Jesus was trying to get across to Philip.
 - 5. Jesus' heart was to get Philip and the rest of the disciples to a place of complete surrender and dependence upon Him. For them to realize that in and of themselves they were insufficient for the task.
 - 6. What Jesus asked of them was impossible for them, but not for Jesus. Jesus could do the impossible, it was His specialty. Later on Jesus will tell the disciples a very important truth about how with men some things are impossible, but not with God. For "with God all things are possible." (Mt. 19:26b)
 - 7. The Lord is able to do the impossible. What we deem impossible, is nothing for the Lord.
 - a. Philippians 4 encourages us and reminds us of a truth Paul discovered. Paul wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13)
 - b. In and of ourselves we are insufficient, but with Christ, we can do all things. **The impossible becomes possible**, as Christ works in and through us.
 - C. Let's continue in our text and see what took place next. Read vs. 8 & 9.
- VI. John 6:8-9;

- A. When Philip told Jesus about what they didn't have, according to Mark's gospel, Jesus asked him and the others to go and see how much they did have. (Mk. 6:38a)
 - 1. Jesus didn't care about what they didn't have, he wanted to know what they did have.
 - B. And our text tells us that Andrew found a lad, a small boy, who had five barley loaves and two small fish. And Andrew's commentary was "but what are they among so many?".
 - 1. Barley loaves were what was usually used to feed the animals. It was a very cheap, inexpensive grain.
 - a. Though it was used for animal feed, it was also what poor people made their bread out of instead of wheat.
 - b. The fact that this boy had barley loaves show us that this boy was most likely very poor.
 - 2. So, all they had was five barley loaves and two fish and Andrew's thought was "but what are these among so many"
 - 3. But again, Jesus wasn't concerned with what they didn't have. He wanted to know what they did have.
 - 4. This is how God operates. He doesn't care so much about what we don't have. He wants to know what we do have, and if we are willing to give Him all we have.
 - 5. The little lad didn't have much. He was poor. But what he had, he gave to the disciples who in turn presented it to Jesus.
 - 6. Jesus will **work with what we have**, if we give Him all that we have.
 - a. He expects no more, but accepts no less.
 - b. He wants all of us. He demands all of us. It doesn't matter how little or how much you have, He'll take it and work with it, if we are willing to give it all to Him.
 - 7. So often, we think we don't have anything to offer to Jesus. We look at all the things we don't have, instead of the things we do have.
 - a. "*I can't sing. I can't teach, I can't get up in front of other people, I can't, I can't, I can't.*" Jesus doesn't care about that. What do you have, and are you willing to give it all to the Lord?
 - b. He'll work with it. He'll use what we have and He'll do incredible things with it. More than we could ever imagine or think as we'll see in the rest of our account.
 - C. Take a look at verses 10 and 11 with me as we see what Jesus is going to do with what little they had.
- VII. John 6:10-11;
- A. Jesus instructed the disciples to have the people sit down in the grass where they were.

1. Mark's gospel tell us that Jesus had them sit in groups of hundreds and fifties, (**Mk. 6:40**) and John tells us that the number of men were about 5,000 in number, not including the women or children in the count according to Matthew's gospel. (**Mt. 14:21**)
 - a. So, we're probably talking more like 10,000 people if you include the women and children in this number. That is a lot of mouths to feed.
 - B. Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and started distributing the bread to the disciples, who in turn distributed to the masses.
 1. Jesus took what little they had, He gave thanks to the Father for it, and began to work with it. The miracle took place in the hands of the Lord. As He broke off a piece of bread, more bread appeared. Over and over again as He broke off each piece more and more was supplied.
 2. And I want you to note something else here that is important. Jesus was the One doing the miracle, He was the manufacturer, the producer, and all He needed from the disciples was for them to distribute it.
 - a. We are not called to be manufacturers, we're not called to be producers, all we need to do is distribute what God gives us.
 - b. We don't need to create something, we don't need to fabricate our own things, we don't need to come up with something on our own. Jesus isn't expecting us to do the miraculous.
 - c. **We just need to distribute whatever He gives us.** That is His heart for us. That we would give to Him all that we have and allow Him to work with it and then whatever He gives back to us, we faithfully distribute it to others.
 3. The disciples continued to come back after each trip to more bread and more fish. Each of them probably passed out close to a 1,000 meals.
 - a. Each time they went out with hands full, and would come back to the Lord and He would have more for them to distribute.
 - b. Verse 11 says the people ate as much as they wanted. This wasn't just a little snack, like we give the kids in Sunday School. Each person ate as much as they wanted. This was a buffet; all you can eat, a feast of bread and fish. And I'm sure it was the most delicious bread and fish these people had ever eaten.
 - C. Take a look at verses 12 and 13 as we wrap up our study and Jesus sends out His disciples for a little clean-up work after the feast.
- VIII. John 6:12-13;
- A. I'm sure the disciples were amazed and overwhelmed at what had just happened, as they went out trip after trip distributing what the Lord had blessed and given to them, but there was still more Jesus wanted to teach them and show them.
 1. After the people were all full and everyone had as much as they desired. Jesus was filled, the disciples were filled, and the multitudes were filled and then afterwards, Jesus sent the disciples out to gather

- up the fragments that remained so that nothing was lost; Jesus didn't want to waste anything.
2. And He certainly didn't want to waste an opportunity to teach the disciples a little bit more from this incredible miracle.
- B. So, the disciples, with full bellies and blown minds, went out and they gathered up the fragments, the leftovers if you will and they ended up filling 12 baskets of barley loaves; not 10 or so, or 11, not a baker's dozen. They gathered up exactly 12 baskets full.
1. How many disciples were there? Twelve. That means there was enough leftovers for each of the 12 disciples to have their own basket full of what they gave to the Lord and He blessed and broke in His hands.
 2. Warren Wiersbe, a favorite Bible commentator of mine noted this, "When we give Christ what we have, we never lose. We always end up with more blessing than when we started."
 - a. That blessing may look different from situation to situation. But God will bless when we set our hearts to give to Him all that we have and we are faithful to distribute whatever He gives back to us.
 - b. I've seen this happen throughout the years of ministry. No matter how difficult or demanding the ministry can be from time to time, the blessings always outnumber the sacrifices. God always provides.
 - c. You can't out give God. God is a debtor to no man. As we are faithful to give what little we have, God will be faithful to provide and take care of us; to meet our needs and then some as we faithfully serve Him and distribute what He has given to us to others.
 - d. When we give to the Lord and are willing to faithfully distribute what He gives back to us, **nothing is ever wasted**. Nothing you do for the Lord will ever be done in vain when our hearts are in the right place, when our hearts desire is to simply give what we have and to distribute to others what He gives back. God will provide; He will take care of those who are faithful to take care of others.
 3. The disciples didn't think what they had was enough. "We've got five loaves and two fish, but what are they among so many?", they thought.
 - a. But what they had was more than enough for God to work with. God was able to do much more than they could have ever imagined possible.
 - b. Ephesians 3:20 describes our Lord as the One "who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us," (**Eph. 3:20**)
 - c. God will take what we have and do exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think, and He will never waste what we give to Him. God is faithful. He will work and He will provide as we give what little we have to Him by faith.
 - d. Amen? Amen. Let's pray.