

Title: When a Little Becomes a Lot

Scripture: John 6:1-14

Speaker: Josh Maness

Event: Sunday Evening Service

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**John 6:1-14** *“After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias. And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.”*

We have nothing to offer God except for our hunger and our very few resources. Christ can take our inadequate resources and meet our needs.

1. **The situation:** The disciples were overwhelmed at their current situation. Jesus knows our circumstances and our problems. Proverbs 15:3 says *“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”* Jesus knows the answer to our prayers before we can even get them uttered. The cost to feed the people would be equivalent to about 12,000 dollars. This was an unthinkable amount, and time was short. They either had to feed them or turn the people away.
  - a. **A request for faith:** Habbakuk 2:4 *“Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.”* Hebrews chapter 11 gives the accounts of many Old Testament people who had great faith. The disciples were asking around to find the answer to their problems.
  - b. **A response to faith:** Philippians 4:6-8 *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”*
2. **The supplies:** The boy had five barley loaves and two fishes. This was meant to be the lunch for one young boy. The disciples didn't think this was much at all. Logically, they knew it wouldn't feed the multitude before them. Moses only had a stick and parted the red sea. Elijah had a cloak and parted the Jordan. David had a stone and took down a giant. Your little bit can be a lot when it is placed in the right hands.
3. **The sacrifice:** The boy gave up his lunch expecting nothing in return. God asks this of us. He expects us to give all of ourselves for him because that's what he did for us. Sometimes we think we know more than God. We think our ways are best and that we can do better. The world creeps in and tells us that we can fix it all. We need to stop seeing ourselves as self-sustainable and admit that we rely on God who sustains us.

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- 4. The surplus:** You will never have a problem greater than God's ability. When there is distance between us and God, our problems seem too big for him to handle. He seems too small and too far away to fix it. God took the boy's lunch and turned it into enough to feed a multitude. After everyone had eaten enough to fill themselves, there were twelve baskets left over. It's not mentioned in scripture, but one can guess that this was to prove to the disciples that Jesus had the ability to meet the needs. There were twelve disciples and twelve baskets – one for each disciple. I Corinthians 13:12 *"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."*

Jesus had the bigger picture in mind. He told his disciples that although he proved himself by feeding so many physically, that he could also fill them spiritually. He later said that he was the bread of life. He was the same manna from Heaven that came down in the Old Testament and filled the Israelites. How much of you does God have? No one is 90% saved. If we are, we are 100% going to hell. Are we completely devoted to Christ? Does he have all of us?