

John 6:9

"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

Excuses, excuses, excuses. We all have them and make them up, that's right, any time you have an excuse for the Lord, it is made up. I've said it before, and I'll say it again, an excuse is the same thing as saying No to God.

Let's look at today's devotional verse, were Jesus fed 5,000 men, and Jesus asked Philip a question, and let's see if Philip responds with an excuse or not.

† **John 6:5** *Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"*

And Philip's reply was:

† **John 6:7** *Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."*

This is not an excuse, but an honest reply. I think we all would have asked the same question. Andrew, Peter's brother was listening in on the conversation when he spoke up with today's devotional verses.

† **John 6:9** *"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"*

Once again, not an excuse, but an honest question. One that we would have asked ourselves... Or would we?

Let's say that you have 5,000 guys at a men's conference (or 5,000 women at a woman's conference) and the night before, the caterer found out that morning that he had gotten robbed and all the food was stolen that was supposed to be for the conference. What do you do? I mean you have 5,000 hungry guys (or gals) ready for lunch after a morning of teaching and the caterer has nothing? But wait, you remember that your best friend brought their own lunch, but what's that among 5,000 hungry people? (Isn't today's verse now becoming more real?)

We applaud Andrew and this little boy for bringing just a few fish sandwiches and what Jesus did with that. Yet how many times do we give excuses (yes now it becomes an excuse) that we have to little to make a difference? What if this little boy said, *"What tiny bit I have won't make a difference, so I'll just keep it to myself, or refuse to give it to Jesus. After all, what can Jesus do*

with a few tiny fish sandwiches” Then it would had become an excuse, because he would had put his faith in himself and not Jesus.

Our faith is not on what we give, no matter how small or little it may seem to be. Our faith is in what Jesus can, and will do with the little bit we give. Our faith should never be on the gift that we give, but rather what the Lord will do with that gift, because the Lord can do just as much with five dollars as He can with five million dollars. Also when you put your faith in your gift, you are putting faith in yourself and your abilities, and not the Lord's.

The apostles asked Jesus to increase their faith, and when you read His response, notice it starts with just a tiny seed (or a fish sandwich or five bucks) and let it increase your faith as well.

✠ **Luke 17:5-6** *And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."*