

Luke 9:14

For there were about five thousand men. Then He said to His disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of fifty."

I think we have all read the story about how Jesus fed the five thousand men, along with women and children. And when Jesus did, part of that account was that He had the disciple tell the five thousand men to sit in groups of fifty, which we just read in today's verse.

But as I read this account, I wonder, what if this were to happen today, how would things be so much different based upon what we see in churches now a days? I have to wonder if Jesus said to the church today *"Make them sit down in groups of fifty."* Would the response be:

"Okay, let's get a committee together and determine who is going to be in charge of each fifty, and let's have them all sign a sign-up sheet so we know who is in each group of fifty, and let's get everyone's email address so we can email them instructions, and let's see if anyone has any food, or let them sign up to bring a side dish, and who is going to do worship before we eat. We also need to know who is bringing plastic ware, and napkins, and what about drinks and cups? We need water and soda and what about tea, both sweet and non-sweet, and should we get diet sodas and what about trash pickup afterwards, we need men in charge of the trash pickup and what about....." STOP

Yet it seems so many churches have gotten into the Red Tape mentality that nothing gets done or they wonder why they struggle as a church or why more people are not serving in the church, or even outside the church, because we have even made sharing Jesus with others into a task instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to lead and guide people, and by making it a task, people are no longer open to the Holy Spirit working in the church or in their lives.

So, what do we do then? Jesus said it best when He spoke to the church in Ephesus and said to them. *"you have left your first love."* **Revelation 2:4b** and we know the way we correct that is to *"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works"* **Revelation 2:5a** some reading that would think, *"That sounds way to simple"* and that's where the issue lies, because we want to over complicate the gospel or even what God has called us to do by the power of the Holy Spirit and His gifting to each of us with spiritual gifts.

I shared this before, but 25-30 years ago, I felt the calling me to teach a home bible study and when I did, I had two choices. I could either pray, study God's word, and allow the Holy Spirit to do the rest. Or I could have over complicated it by thinking about, *"What day should I do it on, and what time should it be, and should I have coffee, tea and lemonade for people to drink and is there enough room in my place and are there enough chairs, and how will I let people know and how long should they be, and I need to get everyone's contact information and" STOP*

Fortunately, I didn't do all that, I simply did the first one, which was to pray, seeking the Lord's guidance, and studying His word. The rest was up to Him, because if God called me to do it, that means He already had a plan on how He wanted me to accomplish it. Sure I let my pastor know that the Lord had called me to this and also we discussed when and where, but it wasn't a stressful thing and there was no red tape that I had to fight my way through, simply to teach God's word. And the results are what you are reading now because He has had me teach His word and do these daily devotionals (over 2,000 of them) ever since.

And let me make that one statement even more personal for you if you feel a calling of the Lord *"If God has called you to do it, that means He already has a plan on how He wants to accomplish it through you."*

I don't know if you have heard the acronym **KISS**, and I will change the last "S" to put this into the Christian perspective.

**Keep
It
Simple
Servant**

Let's not over complicate the gospel or the things the Lord has called us to do, and simply, **Keep It Simple Servant**, because, if you think about it, if the feeding of the five thousand would have happen today with all the red tape the church has, the people would have starved to death or it never would have happen, because we would have probably told them to come back in two to three weeks after we get everything sorted out.

† **2 Corinthians 1:12** *For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.*

† **2 Corinthians 11:3** *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

† **1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (MSG)** *I do want to point out, friends, that time is of the essence. There is no time to waste, so don't complicate your lives unnecessarily. Keep it simple—in marriage, grief, joy, whatever. Even in ordinary things—your daily routines of shopping, and so on. Deal as sparingly as possible with the things the world thrusts on you. This world as you see it is on its way out.*