

Matthew 14:19

Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.

I really, really love teaching the bible. If the Lord called me to do it full time, I would with no hesitation. My wife also teaches the bible and is over the woman's ministry in the church that we go to, and I know she loves teaching God's word to the ladies as well.

But what if we decided to just study it for ourselves and never taught it at all. I think eventually we would be fat lazy Christians, like those people who sit around stuffing themselves with food all day, yet never do anything with that energy that food provides for them. The word of God does the same thing, it energizes us spiritually as we feed on the word of God, then go out and minister to others spiritually and even physically and emotionally, because that's what God's word does for us.

In today's devotional verse this is where Jesus fed the 5,000 men plus women and children.

- **Matthew 14:21** *Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

But if you go back one verse before today's devotional verse it says that all they had was, "***We have here only five loaves and two fish.***" **Matthew 14:17b**

Five little loaves of bread and two fish, that was it. If you think about it, that was probably not even enough to feed to 12 Disciples and Jesus, but it could had been a snack that would had gotten them to the next town where they could get some food. (Think of the Snickers Bar commercials)

You see, if the disciples would had just used it on themselves, no one else would had benefited, and God would not had been glorified. But Jesus had a better idea, and the results are in the order that things happened.

- They told Jesus what they had; "***We have here only five loaves and two fish***"
- Jesus listened to them and made plans based upon what was offered; ***Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass.***
- Then Jesus took what was offered, even though to them it seemed to be to little to make a difference; ***and He took the five loaves and the two fish,***
- Then He talked to God about it and said a simple prayer over what was offered by the disciples; ***and looking up to heaven, He blessed***

- Then after praying over what was offered, Jesus gave to the disciples; ***and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples;***
- And the disciples then gave to the people; ***and the disciples gave to the multitudes.***
- And the results ***were about five thousand men, besides women and children*** got to eat.

The same is true for any ministry, first you have to offer something. Maybe you have nothing or feel like you don't have enough to make a difference. I'm sure the disciples felt the same way. Yet even though they had very, very little, they offered it to Jesus anyway. You can do the same thing. I mean come on, you know God fed 5,000 and 4,000 men plus women and children, with just a couple fish and a few loaves of bread. You believe He created everything we see out of nothing, including the earth and the stars and the moon and the vastness of the universe, but you don't think that He can do anything with what little you have? I know He can, but you must offer it to Him first before He will do anything with it. Or you can just choose to keep what little you have to yourself and put yourself before others.

The poor widow in this next verse choose to trust in the Lord with her tiny offering instead of keeping it for herself.

✠ **Luke 21:1-4** *And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."*

I think it would be safe to say that she did not go home and starve to death. No telling what blessings God had waiting for her when she got home.

For us, we should try and follow the same thing Jesus did and see what He does.

- Give what little you have to Jesus, which may simply be yourself or your time.
- Then Jesus will take what you give Him, and makes His plans on what to do with it. (Note the disciples just gave Jesus the bread and fish, but didn't tell Jesus what to do with them.)
- Then He will actually take that little bit you have to offer from you.
- Then He will show it to the Father and talk to Him about it (This is when you should be praying over it as well)
- Then He will give it back to you to offer to others so they can be blessed.

That's how this ministry of teaching started. I had nothing more than a willing heart to teach God's word. I gave myself to Him. He took me and talked to God about it. Then He gave me a passion for His word and the ability to teach it, so He returned that passion and the time I spend I the word everyday, and I use it to teach others, and I have been doing it for over 20 years now.

So, stop giving God excuses, and simply give Him what you have, no matter how little it is, because if He can turn five loaves of bread and two little fish into a meal for over 5,000 people. Just think what He can do with what you give Him!

† **Zechariah 8:6 (NLT2)** *This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: All this may seem impossible to you now, a small remnant of God's people. But is it impossible for me? says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.*