

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Little Is Much When God Is In It

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Can you imagine this scenario taking place in your home some evening? The phone rings, and on the other end a voice says there is company coming for dinner in about an hour. Suddenly your mind goes to what your current plans were and what you might do to stretch the meal a little further. Then the question is asked, "How many extras will there be for dinner tonight, honey?" The reply comes back, "5000, dear."

In John 6:1-14 we read the miracle of the feeding of the 5000. A crowd had gathered as Jesus was sitting on the hillside teaching His disciples. Jesus looked up from his teaching and saw the multitude, then asked Philip, "Where are we going to find enough food to feed all these people?" You see, it was quite late, and knowing that Philip was from the nearby town and would know the markets, He asked this question to try Philip's faith. Jesus knew it would be impossible for the disciples to get enough food from the town in time to feed the crowd of 5000 men, and additional women and children. Philip answered by telling Jesus that even 200 denarii (8 months' wages) would not be enough money to buy adequate food to feed the large crowd even a little.

At the same time, Andrew was scoping out the crowd to see what food was available. He found a small lad with five loaves and two small fishes. Andrew told Jesus about the limited supply and questioned how far it would go among the large crowd.

Jesus simply replied, "Make the men sit down." Jesus then took the loaves and fishes, blessed them, and had the disciples distribute the food to the crowd until they had eaten as much as they wanted and were full. Then the disciples went through the crowd and gathered up 12 baskets full of food that was left over.

What are the stewardship lessons we can learn from this miracle of Jesus?

- Jesus can take what *looks* impossible and do more than we can imagine! When we trust God to control our finances, He will take even a small amount and multiply it for our sufficiency. Many can testify as to how God has stretched a small salary to care for needs—friends bring food, special gifts come from unexpected sources, etc. When we put God first and give Him His due, no matter how little we have, He will honor and bless our faith.
- Christ took what was available from a willing lad and used it to meet the needs of many. God wants to use us to help meet the needs of others as well. However, we must be willing to be used. We may think we don't have much to give or much to offer to God. That is irrelevant. If we have the attitude that whatever we have belongs to God and that He can use it, He will.
- God does great things as we respond in obedience to the trying of our faith. For some, the trying of their faith may be to begin tithing. For others, it might be to increase their giving or to give a faith promise gift without knowing where the money will come from or to purchase with cash only using no credit cards. For others, it may be to open their home to a missionary or other traveler.

Remember that little is much when God is in it. Don't limit the blessing of God on your life or the lives of others by a lack of willingness to give your time, talent, or money that God has supplied. Let's respond in obedience and faith to the trying of our faith as we seek to be good stewards of what God has entrusted into our care. When we respond in this way, God will bless others and us in ways beyond our expectations and imaginations.

BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: bbcfoundation.org; e-mail: info@bbcfoundation.org