

THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS
Class #210 – Sunday AM1 February 24, 2008

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.



John 6:1-7 After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). ² A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples.

Fishing Boat – Sea of Galilee



- The Lord had withdrawn with the disciples to get some needed rest and discuss everything that went on during their missionary tour.

⁴ Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near.

- Everyone is beginning to make their trek to Jerusalem for the annual feast.
- All these people run into the large crowd that was following Him because of what He was doing.

⁵ Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip,

- Philip was the Mathematician.

“Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?”

- There are thousands of people ascending on the Lord and the disciples.

The Lord asked Philip this question to test his faith.

⁶This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.

- The Lord knew that He was going to feed everyone.
 - Spiritually – through communicating doctrine.
The Word of God – Doctrine
The Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit
 - Physically – the logistics of what we need to sustain us in life.

In this passage **physical** provision was through turning fives loaves of barley bread into thousands.

- Everyone present, motivations aside, has organized their day around being present in Bible class.

POD: As the believer orients his day around the teaching of God’s Word as the highest priority, God will provide, in grace, what the believer needs materially.

If there is an issue with provision perhaps you are not depending on the Lord!

- When we are where the Lord wants us to be, God will provide both spiritual and physical sustenance.
- Remember that it is always the Lord’s responsibility to provide!

“Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?” ⁷ Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.”

200 days’ wages is not enough for even a few bites let alone a meal.



Philip had failed his test because His faith was in what they had in the treasury to meet the physical needs of the crowd as opposed to faith in the Lord.

At this point the Lord begins to welcome the crowd and to teach them.

Luke 9:11-12 But the crowds were aware of this . . .

- They were aware that the Lord had withdrawn by boat with the disciples to the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee, vicinity Bethsaida.

... and followed Him;

- Now they have caught up to Him and they are ascending the mountain.

The Lord asks Philip - “Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?”

Philip says - “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.”

... and welcoming them, He *began* speaking to them about the kingdom of God and curing those who had need of healing.

The Lord takes care of the #1 priority by provided spiritual sustenance through teaching doctrine.

Are your life activities oriented around your intake of the Word of God?

As the day wears on, and everyone is getting hungry, physical need arises.

The disciples, not operating on faith, come up with their own [*wrong*] solution.

¹² Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, “Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place.”

The disciples’ solution lacks both GRACE and FAITH.

Matthew 14:16 But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away; you give them *something* to eat!”

Mark 6:37-38 “Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them *something* to eat?” And He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go look!”

POD: When the believer looks to see what he has available, it may not be enough but it is all he needs.

John 6:8-9 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, ⁹ “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?”

Matthew 14:18 “Bring them here to Me.”

- The Lord was simply asking them to place at His disposal what they had, even though it was insufficient to meet the need.
- The lad, this 10-12 year old boy, who was operating on faith handed over all he had.
- He seizes this wonderful opportunity – an opportunity that was present because he had organized his day around listening to the teaching of God’s Word in a face to face capacity.

Opportunities are present in a face to face capacity that would otherwise not be there.

Luke 9:12 Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, “Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place.” **vs. 14** (For there were about five thousand men.)

Matt 14:16 “They do not need to go away; you give them *something* to eat!”

Mark 6:37-38 “Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them *something* to eat?” And He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go look!”

John 6:9 “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?”

How did Andrew know what the boy had?

The boy said, *I have 5 loaves and two fish, maybe the Lord can use these.*

The boy offered them up in faith.

Matt 14:18 And He said, “Bring them here to Me.”

That’s the point where the boy made what he had available to the Lord.

So he hands what he has over to Andrew who takes it to the Lord.

Luke 9:14-17 And He said to His disciples, “Have them sit down *to eat* in groups of about fifty each.”¹⁵ They did so, and had them all sit down.¹⁶ Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them, and broke *them*, and kept giving *them* to the disciples to set before the people.¹⁷ And they all ate and were satisfied; and the broken pieces which they had left over were picked up, twelve baskets *full*.

Note the following from this miracle:

1. The boy offered what he had to the Lord in faith.

- He didn’t know what the Lord would do with it – he just trusted Him with it.
- The boy wasn’t selfish - he gave all he had as the widow did at the Temple.
- Neither was it the boy’s concern after he placed what he had at the Lord’s disposal.
- Once he gave it - he waited!

2. The Lord blessed what the boy gave Him.

- **Luke 9:16** He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them.
- The sacrifice was pleasing to the Lord because it was made in faith.
- Although it was not enough, it was all that the Lord required.

3. The Lord used what the boy gave Him to bless others.

- **Luke 9:16-17** “. . . He blessed them, and broke *them*, and kept giving *them* to the disciples to set before the people.”

4. Everyone was satisfied.

- **Luke 9:17** And they all ate and were satisfied.

5. The boy was noted by the Lord in the infallible Word of God.

POD: When the believer gives what he has to the Lord in faith and grace (with no strings attached) the Lord will bless it and use it to bless others.

- Maybe it is your life that you place at God’s disposal.
- Maybe it is whatever you have.

- When you make it available to the Lord, even though it is not enough from your perspective, He will do things with it far beyond what you can imagine.

POD: When the Lord blesses what the believer has given the Lord, He will do wonderful things with it far beyond the believer's imagination.

POD: The believer who gives in grace will be satisfied under the principle, it is better to give than to receive.

POD: The Lord rewards those who organize their lives around the teaching of the Word of God.

Even if they are sitting there, not operating on faith - they benefit from those who give in grace with faith.

That exemplifies the concept of blessing by association!

POD: The Lord takes note of those who give in grace and multiplies in grace what the believer makes available to Him in grace with faith.

But when we place ourselves in His hands, He will use us to accomplish what He has asked.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.