



SERIES: September 2022 – February 2023 Believe

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Thursday, October 27, 2022

Scripture: John 6:5-11

TITLE: What Will God Do With You?

When is 90% as effective as 100% The answer: when God is involved. I have seen many times that God has multiplied resources in ways I never could. Whether through the generosity of others, the discovery of lost resources, or through the supernatural grace of God, God can multiply the limited into the limitless.

Don't believe me? Let's continue our study of the Book of John in John 6:5-11.

Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted.

This is probably the most known miracle from the life of Jesus. The crowds are coming to Jesus to see this miracle worker. They're not interested in His teaching on the Kingdom or salvation. They want miracles.

Well, Jesus says, "Okay, they are here. It's true they don't really want me. They want a sign. Well, they're hungry, so let's feed them."

Jesus turns to Phillip and tests Him. Phillip was a slow learner. In the upper room, he asks Jesus to show them the Father. And Jesus says, "C'mon Phillip. How long have you been with me? You've been with me for a long time, but you still just don't get it." But Phillip is no different than us today.

When the air conditioner breaks, we look at our credit card to see how much credit we have. We count the days till pay day. We make sure that it's not a weekend for those overtime charges.

When the diagnosis comes in, we say, "Okay, doc, how long do I have? What are the options? Will insurance cover this?"

Phillip is shortsighted and practical. So are we. Phillip says, I see the crowds. 5,000 men and probably an additional 10 to 15,000 women and children. So even 200 denarii won't cover the food. This was about 8 months' worth of pay. It's a big catering bill!

They find a boy who has 5 loaves and 2 fish. Now, these aren't loaves of Challah bread or French loaves. These are little barley cakes. Think like rice cakes. And two fish. These aren't 20lb catfish or 500lb tuna. These are little pan fish.

This is a true miracle that He invites the disciples to participate in. This is a teaching moment for the disciples. The disciples are distributing these resources to 15,000 to 20,000 people. They are seeing the miracle before their eyes. And, John writes, "as much as they wanted." In other words, they were stuffed.

Jesus multiplied the little to care for the lot. Jesus can and will do amazing things in and through us. He can and will multiply the faith and resources if we let Him.

So here's my challenge for you today: give Him what you have. Jesus will take the 90% and spread it to the 100% if you let Him. What is it that you need in your life? Don't hold back your resources from God. He wants to use you! Your time, your talent, and your treasure are valuable to God! God used a small boy and a small meal to feed 20,000 people. Just imagine what God can do with you if you let Him.