

Preparing For A Miracle

WHAT IS THIS REALLY ABOUT?
It's about growing, sowing, and going in Faith

Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat." But Jesus said, "You feed them." "With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!" "How much bread do you have? "he asked. "Go and find out." They came back and reported, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish." Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed. Mark 6:34-44 (NLT)

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A MIRACLE:

1. I must <u>ADMIT</u> I have a problem bigger <u>THAN ME</u>. (an unsolvable problem)

Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to

the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat." But Jesus said, "You feed them." "With what?", they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!" **vv. 35-37**

Barriers to the miraculous...

- a. Procrastination/avoidance (it's getting late...)
- b. Pass the buck/blame (Send the crowds away...)
- c. Worry (With what... We can't afford it...)
- 2. I must TRUST and GIVE GOD what little I already have.

"How much bread do you have?" he asked. "Go and find out." They came back and reported, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish." **v.38**

3. I must PUT IT ALL in the hands of Jesus.

Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. **v. 41**

4. I must TRUST and EXPECT GOD to multiply it.

They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed. **vv. 42-44**

"...All things are possible (even the impossible) with God." Mk. 10:27 (NIV)

Going deeper on your own. Read the story of the feeding of the five thousand in all four Gospel accounts (Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:33-44, Luke 9:10-17, and John 6:1-14). Now imagine you are close to Jesus and the disciples and you can hear them talking. As you heard the conversation, how would you react? Imagine the little boy as he offered up his lunch. Imagine what you and others around you would feel as you see Jesus feed so many through this small offering from a young boy? Now think about all the lives changed and the stories told because this young boy gave all he had so that Jesus could feed so many? You were given a brown paper bag during this weekend's service. Knowing that there are thousands upon thousands of people waiting to be fed His Truth, begin to pray and ask our Lord what He would have you give. On March 30th and 31st, we will have a special service to offer our Lord a commitment and kickstart offering to the "A Daring New Day" spiritual growth and building campaign. Plan to come to that special weekend service as we offer our gifts to Him.