

Don't Miss It! Significant Insignificance



July 15, 2018

John 6:1-14

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down."

What's your favorite story in the Bible? I like the one where everybody loafs and fishes.

This is the only miracle of Jesus' ministry that appears in all four Gospels (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:5-14).

2 Kings 4:42-44; 1 Kings 17:10-16

Everyone is looking for a life of significance. What will my life produce?

Funeral comments over the years!

Knitting, crossword puzzles, baseball player, managed a company, made millions, etc.

The American dream? Building bigger barns to store your possessions?

Two types of people- content in what they are doing and those who walk in guilt because of the ever nagging thought of I have to do something more!

Ill.- stay at home moms

Ex.- praying, emailing, loving your kids or grandkids, etc.

More is not always better. A busy life is not a sign of significance for God. In fact many people are doing so many things their life is out of control. Many are doing many things but nothing excellent.

Three things stand out in this story: the needy multitudes; the inadequate disciples; and the adequate Savior.

Thoughts about the boy with the lunch.

Thoughts about his mother and father.

- Did the mom ever think that the menial task of making a lunch for her son would have such an amazing result for the kingdom of God?
- Did the dad ever think that by teaching his son unselfishness would ever impact God's kingdom in such a great way.
- What about the fisher or the farmer that planted the barley?

Family dynamics- may every child desire to emulate their parents in what they do for God!

Back to the boy- we don't even know his name! Yet, God did and had an amazing plan for him that day.

No one in the crowd would have thought that this boy mattered. No one would have imagined that what he was carrying in his little basket would not only be the provision of the moment, but the basis of one of the most significant sermons Jesus ever preached.

This was one little boy in the crowd, with a little bit of seafood and bread, but he had been chosen by God to be a significant piece of the Messiah's redemptive plan not only for that day, but for the rest of human history.

No one knew that after this moment, every man, woman, and child who trusted in Jesus and read the Bible would know this boy, know exactly what was in his basket that day, and know how Jesus used him to make the point of points about his identity.

The Lord knows us all. He knows where we are, what we have, and how we can be used. He is the Divine Author over each and every moment, writing our stories. He can do eternally amazing things with the little fragments of our lives that we're carrying around and that we tend to think aren't worth much.

Significant lessons learned from the little lad.

- **He gave what he had**

Obedience often precedes understanding. Jesus said "If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself." (John 7:17)

Jesus uses people who lack resources. The disciples' comment about buying enough food for all these people was no doubt said with some sarcasm. They didn't have nearly enough money to do that. The other gospels report that they did a quick calculation and told Jesus that 200 denarii (seven to eight months' wages) would not be enough to give each person just a little bread. Obviously, the disciples didn't have anywhere near that much cash in hand. Besides, they were in a desolate place. Even if they went to Bethsaida to buy bread, there wouldn't be that much bread available. They were ridiculously lacking in the resources to meet Jesus' demand to feed the multitude.

Some people say, "I'll serve Jesus someday, but I'm too busy and stressed out to get involved right now." Or, they think, "I plan to give generously to the Lord's work after I get my finances in better shape. But right now I can't afford to give much." But they're making the mistake of thinking that serving Christ is something we volunteer to do when we have adequate time, energy, and financial resources. Then they'll choose to serve Him.

But Jesus doesn't work through people who choose to serve. He works through His servants. Servants don't volunteer to serve. They don't tell their masters, "I'll clean your house and fix dinner tomorrow, but I'm too stressed out or busy today!" Servants serve when they're tired, emotionally drained, busy, and lacking in adequate resources. Servants serve because they're under obligation to their master.

How do we do it? By yielding our inadequacy to the Master to use as He pleases. Five small loaves and two fish, a boy's lunch—not much to feed such a crowd. Matthew records Jesus as saying, "Bring them here to Me!" That's the key! Give your inadequate resources and abilities to Jesus. The insufficient becomes more than sufficient when surrendered to Christ!

The widow's 2 mites

Obedience is vital in our lives if we want a successful life. Matthew 7

- **He did not withhold what was his from Jesus. (Nothing we have belongs to us)**

Ill.- observations of a grandparent (or parent)- that's mine!!!! Passed on throughout life as well!

- **The concept of ownership**

A country preacher went to a farmer in his church and asked, "If you had two farms, would you be willing to give one farm to God?" "Yes," replied the farmer. "I only wish I were in a position to do it." The preacher persisted, "If you had \$1,000,000.00, would you give \$500,000.00 to the Lord's work?" The farmer replied, "Yes, I'd love to have that kind of money! I'd gladly give \$500,000.00 to the Lord's work." Then the preacher sprung his trap: "If you had two pigs, would you give one to the Lord's work?" The farmer blurted out, "That's not fair! You know I've got two pigs!"

But what are they for so many?

- **He demonstrated trust and faith**

How often we try to figure out a human solution, instead of trusting Jesus' provision!

2 Chronicles 16:9- For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. (King Asa)

- **His life mattered**

Hebrews 11:5- Enoch; 2 Peter 1:17

The opinions of people are of little worth in deciding if our lives matter!

It depends on who and what you are living for!

- **He was blessed in the end with more than he started with**

Ill. Job

Jesus does not go by our math!

Luke 6:38; Proverbs 11:24

1 with God is a majority.

AN IMPOSSIBILITY WILL BECOME A HIM-POSSIBILITY!

A. We must yield what we have, not what we don't have.

B. We must yield our inadequacy to Him to use as He pleases.

Jesus blesses.

Without His blessing, we're wasting our time. "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psalm 127:1). Watchman Nee, "Expecting the Lord's Blessing" (in Twelve Baskets Full. Nee argues that everything in God's work depends upon His blessing. If it is there, even an insufficient amount is sufficient; if it is lacking, the greatest resources and efforts in the world will not be enough.

By God's blessing, Nee means a working of God that is far in excess of human calculations. If you scrape together 200 denarii and buy enough bread to give everybody a little bit, that is not God's blessing. But if there is no human way to explain the results in proportion to the gifts or working of those involved, that is God's blessing. It's not that we're sloppy about our work and expect God to cover for our laziness and incompetence. We ought to work hard and be skilled in what we do for the Lord. But to have God's blessing is not to expect results in proportion to my talents and labor, but in proportion to God's abundance.

Jesus satisfies.

Jesus "kept giving them to the disciples to set before the multitude. And they all ate and were satisfied" (Luke 9:16-17). The "all" included the boy who gave up his lunch! Everyone had enough. They even had leftovers! No one went hungry.

D. L. Moody was a man whom God greatly used. Thousands of people both in America and in England met the Savior through his tireless labors. But humanly speaking, Moody was a very inadequate man. One of nine children, his father died when he was four. He had little formal education. All his life his grammar was atrocious. What little religious education he received as a child was in a Unitarian church. At 17, he left home to work in a Boston shoe store. There, a Sunday School teacher called on him and presented the claims of Christ. In the back of that store, Moody trusted the Savior.

He applied to join a church, but they turned him down and kept him waiting ten months because he was so ignorant of the Bible. He moved to Chicago where, after work, he began to go out into the slums and gather the poor children to bring to Sunday School. A businessman who knew Moody before he became famous told of the first time that he saw him. Moody had gotten permission to hold a meeting in a little shanty that a saloonkeeper had abandoned. The businessman came in a little late and saw this heavysset man holding a small black boy in his arms. By the light of a few candles he was trying to read to him the story of the prodigal son. He couldn't make out many of the words and had to skip them. The businessman thought, "If the Lord can use such an instrument as that for His honor and glory, it will certainly astonish me!"

After the meeting was over, Moody told the man, "I have only one talent; I have no education, but I love the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to do something for Him. Pray for me." Henry Varley, a good friend of Moody's in the early days of his work, once said to Moody, "It remains to be seen what God will do with a man who gives himself up wholly to Him." Moody thought about that and said, "By God's grace, I will be that man."

The requirement is that you see how inadequate you are to do anything for Him. Then, yield your inadequacy to Him to use as He pleases. He will use you to help meet the needs of a hurting world. And He will give you a basket full of leftovers for yourself besides!

One-minute take-away

