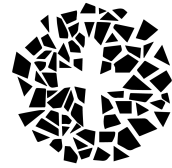


INTRODUCING JESUS

LUKE 9:1-17

Community Group Study Guide
Week of March 17, 2019



MOSAIC BOSTON
LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE.

This week we looked at Luke 9:1-17 where Jesus sends his disciples out to preach the gospel, and then miraculously feeds a crowd of 5,000 men (likely over 10,000, including women and children). What is interesting about this miracle is that we're told very little about the crowd or their reaction. Parallel passages suggest that the crowd missed the point of this miraculous sign completely. Instead, the focus is on Jesus and his disciples. The "sign" of feeding the 5,000 was really more for them than it was for the hungry crowds.

The Gospel of John tells us that Jesus wanted to test his disciples by suggesting they do something impossible. Jesus needs us to see and acknowledge our insufficiency and desperate need. It's impossible for us to do all that God calls us to do on our own. This doesn't give us an excuse to give up and be passive, however. Jesus wants us to take what little we have and use it in faith, trusting that he in return will supply what we need to accomplish the impossible task he's called us to. Contrary to the old adage, "God helps those who help themselves," Jesus shows his disciples that God helps those who humble themselves and hunger to be used for his Kingdom purposes. The command may have seemed absurd, but the disciples listen and obey, and in the end the 5,000 were not only successfully fed, but there were 12 baskets of food left over (one for each of them).

In the context of Jesus' ministry, it becomes clear that this miracle was about a lot more than feeding hungry people. Jesus had just sent his disciples out to proclaim the Gospel to towns of people dying of spiritual starvation. The redemptive hope of the world was riding on their shoulders, and the task must have seemed overwhelmingly impossible. In their own strength, the mission would have failed miserably, but this is the reality they needed to understand. If Jesus is really the King, then they need to obey his command, and trust that even if he commands the absurd, impractical, or impossible, he will also supply them with all that is needed to accomplish it for His glory.

Jesus is the good King who laid down his own life to be the "Bread of Life" His people need. He is also the all-powerful King who has defeated sin and death and guaranteed an eternity where his people will hunger and thirst no more. Therefore, He is the only King that we can trust, obey, and love with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand the purposes of his miraculous sign.

Heart

To trust that Jesus will supply us with all we need to do all He has commanded us to do.

Hands

To humble ourselves and use what little we have, in faith, for the purpose of God's mission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact

admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

ICE BREAKER

What is the largest banquet you've been to?

Read Luke 9:1-17

- Why do you think Jesus had His disciples participate in this miraculous sign? Why not simply feed the crowd on His own in a more efficient manner?
- Why is it important to understand this “sign” in the context of Jesus having just sent his disciples out, on their own and empty-handed, to preach the Gospel?
- Jesus commands his disciples to do something absurd, impractical, and ultimately impossible. How is this a good illustration of what it means to follow Jesus, and what should we learn from it?
- Many heretical theologians have taught that if God commands something, then it must be possible for us to do it on our own. Their concern is that if God commands something impossible, then He must not be a good God. Why is this way of thinking flawed, and how does it miss the point of God's desire and purpose in giving us commandments?
- Has God ever called you to do something that seemed impossible? What happened and what did you learn from that experience?
- How does a sense of desperation or weakness give us a better perspective for following Jesus than times where we feel comfortable or strong?
- Do you ever feel like the disciples facing the 5,000 when you think about your own spiritual growth or sharing the Gospel with others? Why do we often feel that way, and how should this passage give us hope?
- There is a strong and intentional literary parallel here between the description of Jesus distributing the bread to the crowds (took, blessed, broke, gave), and Jesus distributing the bread to His disciples at the Last Supper. What are we meant to see in this and what can we learn from it?