



*Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"*

*Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"*

*Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.*

*When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.*

*After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."*

### **APPLICATION:**

What did the disciples see as the problem?

What did the disciples see as the solution?

How do you think the disciples and crowd viewed Jesus differently in the end?

Is your trust and heart more like the disciples or the little boy?

## **READ 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-14:**

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:*

*“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever.”*

*Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.*

## **APPLICATION:**

What do you think is the difference between “sparingly” and “generously”? (verse 6)

What does Paul describe as important about a generous heart? How does Paul describe the result? (verses 7-8 & 10-14)

Paul says that we are given resources by God so that we can be generous on every occasion. So answer honestly: If you were God, would you give you more money? (verse 11)

## **TAKEAWAY**

When you think of someone who has left a legacy of generosity, who is that person? Describe them.

What are you holding onto that God wants you to give?

# MAKING AN UNFINISHED COMMITMENT

## EXERCISE AND REFLECTION TO DO AT HOME PRIOR TO COMMITMENT SUNDAY

1. List out the financial commitments that you currently have—those that go beyond a one-time payment but have a time duration to them. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cell phone contract, your child's tuition for school, your own tuition for school, etc.

2. Now, write out the commitment you are planning to make for *Unfinished*. Where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments? Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments in order to be able to fulfill your *Unfinished* commitment? What if you wanted to raise your *Unfinished* commitment? What would that require? Is there a financial commitment you currently have that appears to be prioritized above your ability to make a truly surrendered giving commitment to help move God's mission of helping people take their next step with Christ forward?

3. If someone who didn't know you looked at your financial commitments, what would they say that you value?

4. Would that statement be true about you? Or, is there something that needs to be explained or modified?

5. If you keep this commitment over the next two years, what type of spiritual transformation will that cause in you?

6. How will you leverage this change to influence others such as your children, your co-workers, your friends, your family, or others in your circles of influence?

**Pray over your commitment** as you prepare to lay your card at the altar on Commitment Weekend, February 18 & 19. Prayer is the most important thing in this whole process and prayer is what gives us the bold heart of Christ within us.

**Let's do this!** Let's be people boldly surrendering themselves to God in every area of their lives and declaring, "I am unfinished!"