

DAY 28

YOU GIVE THEM
SOMETHING TO EAT
MARK 6:37

"Someone else will take care of that." How many times have we said that? When we hear about problems, sometimes our first response isn't "How can we help?" but rather, "Someone else will help."

Today's quotation from Jesus tells us it's not about someone else taking care of anything. God is telling us it is our job to feed the hungry. He is calling His followers to take care of things themselves. "That's somebody else's problem" is not in the vocabulary of Jesus or His followers. The truth is we all have gifts or talents or possessions we can offer to the world around us.

I love this story from Peter Sagal:

When Morgan was a young woman living in New York City, she had trouble finding herself. She was very uncertain of herself and she had become obsessed with Mother Teresa.

For some reason, Morgan thought Mother Teresa was the epitome of what a human being should be. One day Morgan found out Mother Teresa was coming to New York and she found out where she was staying. So Morgan parked on a curb outside the hotel, hoping to get a glimpse of her, when a car pulled up and Mother Teresa got out.

Morgan ran up to Mother Teresa and said, "I'm so glad to meet you. The work you do is so important and I want to come to Calcutta and work

with you." Mother Teresa shook her head and said, "No, you don't do this work because you think it's good. You do this work because you so love the poor people of Calcutta that you can't be away from them. That's when you come and do this work." Morgan realized she had been busted a little bit (in a nice way).

Mother Teresa said, "What do you do?" Morgan said, "Nothing important. I work in a theater and help put on plays. What use is that?"

Mother Teresa replied, "There are many different kinds of famine in this world. In my country there is a famine of the body. In this country there is a famine of the spirit. Stay here and feed your people."³²

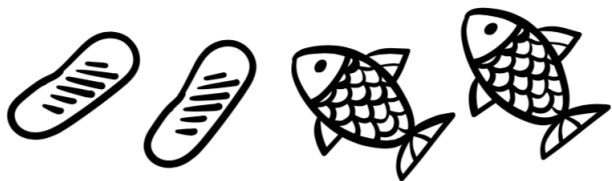
All of us have something to offer. The God of the Universe, the one who has access to everything, invites us to be part of a miracle with Him. **God doesn't need us to participate in His miracles with Him, but He wants us to.**

Today's quote comes from the miraculous story of Jesus feeding 5000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. The crowds had been with Jesus all day and were hungry! The disciples wanted to send them home to get food when Jesus told them, "You give them something to eat." Can you imagine what they must have been thinking? "How are we going to feed them? This man is out of his mind!" Jesus was testing their faith.

Andy Stanley describes this story well:

*"What do you do when Jesus is actually standing there telling you to do something you know you can't do? Apparently you do what we do. You make excuses and tell Him things He already knows...I'm not smart enough. I'm not educated enough. I'm not resourced enough. Get somebody else! But Jesus says, 'Just bring me what you do have and I'll work with that. Bring me your limited education, your lack of experience, along with your fear and insecurity, and watch what I can do'...if we, or the people in our churches, ever get to the place where we are willing to make what we have available to God, amazing things will happen."*³³

For whatever reason, God has chosen to work with us in redeeming and restoring this world. He's chosen us to be the people who speak and act on His behalf. God believes you can make a difference. That's why He's chosen you. 1 Corinthians 3:10 calls us "co-workers" or "co-laborers" with God. We have already been called by God to work with Him and given the tools to grow His Kingdom! Don't wait for permission from your pastor or someone else to do what God has put in your heart. God has called you and He's filled you up with the Holy Spirit to give you everything you need to make a difference in this world. You may feel like you don't have a lot to offer, but I want you to know that the same God that turned a boy's lunch into food for 5000 can do the same for you. **God can do a lot with a little.**



**GOD CAN DO
A LOT WITH A
LITTLE.**



#REDLETTERCHALLENGE

This is the story of Jesus turning one boy's lunch into food for thousands. You may feel like you don't have a lot to offer, but I want you to know that the same God that multiplied a boy's lunch into food for 5000 can do the same with whatever you offer to Him.

MATTHEW 14:13-21

13 *When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.*

15 *As evening approached, the 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 villages and buy themselves some food."*

16 *Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."*

17 *"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.*

18 *"Bring them here to me," he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.*

21 *The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

GOD HAS GIVEN YOU
SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE
ELSE COULD USE. USE
YOUR RESOURCES TO HELP
SOMEONE TODAY.

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