

The Story of George Müller

“In 1832, the streets of Bristol were very dirty. There was no underground sewage system and disease spread easily. There was an outbreak of cholera – lots of people died, leaving many orphans living on the streets or in the workhouses. These children would be sent to work from as young as 4 or 5 years old. Some were treated very badly. Others lived on the street, stealing and begging to support themselves.” – George Müller Museum

Provision for the Mission

The setting (vss. 30-32)

*Tired from a period of busy-ness, they need to get a break.
At the same time, many are coming and going.
They are facing the limits of their human capacity to accomplish the mission.*

The plot thickens (vss. 33-34)

They were recognized, and people went ahead of them.

How will they get rest?
How will Jesus react to these inconvenient people?

Jesus has compassion on them, “because they were like sheep without a shepherd” (Ezk. 34)

Vss. 2-3 Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? ³You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep.

Vs. 12, 16, 23 “As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness... I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak... ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.”

*Jesus shows his compassion by **teaching** them*

Mark 1:21, Mark 1:38, Mark 2:2, Mark 2:13, Mark 3:14, Mark 4:1, Mark 6:2, Mark 6:6, Mark 8:31, Mark 9:31, Mark 10:1, Mark 10:35.

The twist (vss. 35-37)

You give them something to eat!

Was he talking about physical food? Why or why not?
John 21:17 “Feed my sheep”

The miracle (vss. 38-44)

*How many loaves do you have?
All ate and were satisfied.*

Doing the Impossible

Feed my sheep

*Twelve men versus the world
The mission of the church*

An impossible mission

*The mission of the church
Do you know your mission? Your “red hot why?”*

Müller’s Tombstone

The epitaph reads: “He trusted in God with whom nothing shall be impossible.” And in his beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord who said “I go unto my father, and whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” And in his inspired word which declares that “All things are possible to him that believeth.” And God fulfilled these declarations in the experience of his servant by enabling him to provide for about ten thousand orphans.” (the actual number was probably 120,000)

He raised about \$136,000,000 without ever asking for a penny. It was all through prayer.

Questions for Personal Study

1. Why do the prophecies provide insight into who Jesus is?
2. Jesus’ coming is the most important event that has ever taken place. How are you responding to that?
3. Why is it significant that even Jewish people had to be baptized? That you can’t baptize yourself?
4. Are you in a desert time? How are you learning dependence?