



The Table Series Part 2

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A few Sundays ago, we began a series entitled, “The Table” during which we began a study of the accounts of Christ while at a table and the revelations that we can glean from the conversations, events, and insight that were shared. I have learned that you can discover a great deal about a man by what he discusses while sitting around a table and the Scriptures provide for us a treasure trove of insight regarding the Heart of God, the Love of God and the Provision of God. Some of the greatest revelations of the Father were delivered by Jesus sitting around a table!

And in the Gospel of Saint Mark 6:30-44, Jesus does just that. He reveals to us the Provision of God while sitting around a table of sorts surrounded by Hungry People that had followed Him to a Desert Place.

(Please Stand for the Reading of the Word)

Gospel of Saint Mark 6:30-44, “³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. ³⁵And when it grew late, his Disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” ³⁷But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denariiⁱⁱⁱ worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”

³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹ Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the Disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.”

In this text, we discover one of the most powerful accounts of Christ’s supernatural abilities found in the power to multiply bread and fish to feed thousands. Where I come from that would be the world record of the World’s Largest Fish Fry! But there is some rich depth and insight that this text offers to us to gain a deeper understanding of the Provision of God! So with that said, Point #1

1) Jesus revealed the Provision of God while setting at a Table of Lack

- a) ³⁵ And when it grew late, his Disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶ Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” ³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and

buy two hundred denarii¹¹ worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”

- b) Notice here that the Disciples are trying to figure out how to bring Provision to a situation they had discerned to be in Lack but it was based solely on Human Means of the need being met.
- c) One thing I’ve had to learn to embrace as a leader is that it is ok to not be enough. My heart, as your Pastor, is to be everything you need for me to be to minister to you and your family but that is simply just not a realistic expectation for me to place on myself. I am not and never will be enough to meet all of the demands of life and ministry. This is why a Team of Pastors are necessary to meet the needs of the Church; one man cannot do it all.
- d) And it is this area of lack which constitutes why the anointing is so important; the anointing positions us to have His Super on our Natural. But too often we find ourselves like the Disciples, looking at what we don’t have rather than looking at what we do have.
- e) Write this down, “Proper Perspective Produces A Fruitful Faith!”
- f) The Disciples were adept enough to Discern the Lack but failed to Discern the Point of Provision that sat nearby. And how many times in life have we made this same mistake? We allow a Lack in our lives to outshine the Provider of our Lives!

- g) Every Breakthrough that I've ever had in my life was based upon a Relationship and our Breakthrough as a Church is not based upon those who are out there but rather upon those who are in here. You are divinely positioned in this Church to be Someone's Breakthrough!
- h) Too often we look too far outside of our reach to find provision when the Lord has already positioned in our lives, those whom He intends to use to bless us! Every breakthrough that you will ever need is within arm's reach!
- i) But not only did Jesus reveal the Provision of God while setting at a Table of Lack, (Point #2)

2) Jesus revealed the Provision of God while seeing the Need and the Seed

- a) ³⁸ And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish."
- b) Jesus simply asked them, "What do you have?" The Disciples focused on the Need but Christ was focused on the Seed which is the point of provision. The Need is the Point of Lack. The Seed is the Point of Provision. What Resources are available?
- c) Often times, we will find ourselves in places of frustration, like the Disciples, because we are adept enough to discern a Point of Lack in our lives but we fail in our capacity to see a Point of Provision.

- d) What the Disciples saw was a Need, but what Jesus was focused on was the Seed. We must be careful that we do not make the mistakes of the Disciples and forget whom we are walking with. Provision is always close by.
- e) I feel, according to this text, that Jesus would ask us the same thing, “What do you have?” The Lord cannot multiply something that you do not have or rather, for some of us, are not willing to give to Him to do so; He always multiplies what you have but His multiplication is based upon exchange!
- f) The question we must ask ourselves is do we look at what we do have as a Seed or as a Sign of Lack? Like Jesus, we must develop the ability, by Faith, to see the Need and the Seed. Remember, Proper Perspective Produces A Fruitful Faith!
- g) Our marriages, our children, our jobs, our finances, our Faith; each one of these are Seed points that will only be fruitful when they are sown into and cultivated. Want a fruitful marriage? Sow time, money and effort into it. Want a fruitful child? Sow time, money and effort into them. Want a successful job? Sow time, money and effort into it. Want prospered finances? Sow time, money and effort into it. Want a fruitful Faith? Sow time, money and effort into it. Want a Powerful Church? Sow time, money and effort into it.

- h) We can only reap a harvest in any one of these points if we have been diligent to sow time, money and effort into them. We cannot expect a harvest in a field in which we have not sown. Everything you need is in the seeds you sow!
- i) (Well Pastor, you are preaching that Prosperity Gospel mess and I don't like it..) Here me well today, I am not a Prosperity Gospel preacher. I do not misuse the Power of the Gospel for Mammon.
- j) Using God's principles to get what you want is manipulation not maturity. I am not seeking to attempt to manipulate people or the Father for that matter; Seed Time and Harvest is a Biblical Principle and should to be applied to every area of our lives.
- k) I'll make this personal to myself; when I pursued my Master's Degree in Business Administration, an MBA, I knew one thing was for sure. I was going to have to sow Time, Money, and Effort into that Degree to achieve it! Here me well today, the greatest commodity in any of our individual lives is Time; not money. Where are you investing it?
- l) But not only did Jesus reveal the Provision of God while seeing the Need and the Seed (Point #3)

3) Jesus revealed the Provision of God by bringing Order before releasing the Blessing!

- a) In this text Jesus took a little boy's lunch of 5 Loaves and 2 Fish and multiplied the provision of one to be the provision of many.
- b) But allow me to parenthetically insert here that Provision always follows Order; Notice with me in verses 39-40
- i) ³⁹Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.
- c) Notice that He brings Order before He brings Provision.
- d) And notice the outcome of Order; Provision manifests in a bountiful way. Notice with me verses 41-42.
- i) ⁴¹And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the Disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And they all ate and were satisfied.
- e) The fact of the matter is this; Jesus will not bless disorder nor will He prosper rebellion. How many needs in our lives have not been met, not because Christ doesn't want to bless us, but rather due to our Lack of Order and our Disobedience. Jesus will never bless a Spirit of Rebellion because if He were a Blessor of Rebellion then He would have Blessed Lucifer and we all know how that turned out according to the Biblical Text. Lucifer's Rebellion was met with War and ultimately Expulsion.

- f) The Blessings of God are released when we facilitate the Prerequisites of the Blessing itself. The Father will not bless your marriage until you bring your marriage into obedience to Christ. The Father will not bless your children until you bring your children into obedience to Christ. The Father will not bless your finances until you bring your finances into obedience to Christ.
- g) Tithing is a Test that is easily passed but is failed by so many Christians because we believe it is about the money; it's not about the money, it's about our idolatry. Tithing prohibits us from building an Idol to the god of self. Just as Jesus demanded order before multiplying the loaves and fish, so does He demand order in our financial support of His Church before multiplying our financial resources. The Blessings we desire upon our Faith, our Families, and our Finances is based upon facilitating the prerequisites of the Blessings themselves. We must be Obedient to His Word, bring our lives in Order to the Word, and sow Seed in accordance with the Word if we intend to Reap a Harvest.
- h) But not only did Jesus reveal the Provision of God by bringing Order before releasing the Blessing... (Point #4)

4) Jesus revealed the Provision of God by feeding Thousands all while blessing the provision of One!

- a) Notice that the breakthrough that everyone needed was based upon the Taking, the Blessing and the Breaking of the resources that were barely enough to feed one person; what was not enough to feed one person became enough to feed over 40,000 people in one sitting, according to Flavius Josephus, because Jesus knew that the Blessing required the Breaking to get the Multiplication of a Minimal Resource.
- b) And in the Blessing comes a state of More than Enough; notice verse 43, **“⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.”**
- c) There are so many of us that think that our 5 loaves and two fish aren't enough to make an impact in the Kingdom of God; many of us underestimate the power of His ability to multiply our resources; our time, our talents and our tithes. Some of us may think, “well, my tithe isn't very big, my gifting isn't very great, my resources aren't very big” but I'm here to tell you that there is a Blessing in the Breaking. Could it be that the Lord breaks us not for the sake of cruelty but rather for the benefit of others because if Jesus is to use us in this life, we, like the loaves and fish, must be Taken, Blessed, and then Broken for the sake of meeting the needs of others that Christ intends for our lives to impact. Church Family, there is a Blessing in the Breaking.
- d) Stop looking at your Resources through the Lens of Lack and start looking at it through the Lens of Abundance; See the Seed. Notice that Jesus never scoffed nor looked down on what was brought to Him because the Abundance was not in the Resource He was given but rather in the Breaking that would follow His Blessing...

Harvest Offering - Provide Instruction

- Ushers, on the Floor, place buckets on Platform
- Ushers, in the Gallery, take post at base of Stairs