

WHEN FACED WITH A DIFFICULT SITUATION

Mark 6:35-44

When we are faced with a difficult situation, it tends to follow this pattern:

1. We start by asking God to do the easy thing

And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." (35-36)

2. God responds by telling us to do the hard thing

But he answered them, "You give them something to eat..." (37)

3. We react by questioning God's plan

...And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" (37)

4. God asks us to do what we can

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." (38)

5. God takes our little and gives us a lot

Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. 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. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men. (39-44)