

HOPE for NKY

HOPE Here and Now...

The NKY Baptist Association is collaborating in prayer, messages, and action to proclaim the Gospel in our community. There is an epidemic in society and culture pulling people's hearts, minds, and spirits away for the only HOPE they could ever have. The result of that epidemic is a community filled with our own family, friends, and neighbors who lack faith, lack hope, and lack an eternal home. But, there is HOPE. And, when we understand the glory of the Gospel and the tragedy of unbelief, we will develop a deep burden for the lost.

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10

God delights to use us to bring HOPE! That's kind of scary, isn't it. Of all the ways God could choose to reveal Himself to the world...He CHOSE you. So, what do you bring to the table? How can you make that happen? You can't. Only He can. He simply asks for your faith, trust, and to follow Him.

We look at our own limitations and allow them to apply to God. But God, who is great in power and mercy, is ready to accomplish the impossible through you showing the world what can happen when little becomes limitless.

16 But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”
Matthew 14:16

The Challenge

7 Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii[a] worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” John 6:7-9

The Philippian jailer after the earthquake

30 Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:30

The crowd asks Jesus

28 Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” John 6:28

The rich young man

16 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” Matthew 19:16

The lawyer asking about the Good Samaritan

25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Luke 10:25

Jesus never asks us to solve the whole problem, only to give Him what we have.

The small lunch belonged to the boy. An anonymous, small offering that Jesus took, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks. The blessing of God transformed the tiny portion into a massive feast.

The Outcome

20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14:20-21

The twelve baskets of leftovers are a powerful symbol:

- Abundance from God
- Personal reminder
- HE (Jesus) is sufficient

Their full bellies were a clear sign that Jesus is more than they thought, the true provider for His people. Later, in John 6, Jesus would directly connect this miracle to His identity, declaring, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger."

- What little loaves and fish are you clutching today, convinced they are "not enough" for the task God has laid before you?

The Invitation

16 But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." Matthew 14:16

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10

- Do you look at your **time**, your **talent**, or your **treasure** and say, "What is this among so many needs?"
- Do you look at the **spiritual hunger** of your **family**, your **community**, or the **world**, and feel overwhelmed by your own inadequacy?

When we bring what we have to Christ, He will take it, bless it, break it, and multiply it for the glory of God and the nourishment of the world.

Trust Him with your little. Watch Him make it limitless.

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – Jesus showed compassion on the people, in the midst of His own grief, showing us how to live and love. What lesson can we learn from His selfless generosity here?

Tuesday – Jesus instructed His followers to “give them something to eat”. He is asking you to do the same. How can He use you to fill bellies AND souls?

Wednesday – The disciples struggled to see past the lack to see what God could do. Where do you feel you lack? How does that limit your faith and/or willingness to feed bellies and souls?

Thursday – Jesus blessed the small offering, gave thanks, and multiplied it beyond anyone's expectations. When have you been a witness to Jesus doing the same through or around you?

Friday – The world needs and is waiting for a sign of hope. God is sending you as that sign to point people to Him. Where is He calling you trust Him with this critical next step to reach this world?