

THE BLESSED LIFE part 6

“A Trusting heart”

“Being Blessed means having supernatural power working for you”

6 WEEK GENEROSITY JOURNEY!

CHANGE THE WAY WE THINK!!!! FIND FREEDOM!

WEEK 1: AN OPEN HEART! Inviting God into the conversation!

-Money stressed most people out! God wants to help!

-Cast your cares.....take my yoke.

-Owner verses Renter (Steward) FREEDOM

WEEK 2: A WILLING HEART: GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

-Be willing and obedient

-One gift, 2 responses: Judas & Mary

-Revealed the heart! (Selfish or grateful)

WEEK 3: AN UNDERSTANDING HEART: “THE PRINCIPLE OF FIRST”

-Honor God FIRST and THEN he will increase the rest!

-Seek FIRST the Kingdom.....THEN....all these things as well!

-It takes more faith to give to God FIRST and TRUST for enough.

WEEK 4: A CONTENT HEART: FIGHTING GREED AND WANTING MORE

- The Spirit of Mammon (Aramaic word for Riches)
- It was named after a Syrian God that represented wealth and riches
- Jesus was talking about putting your trust in money & riches

WEEK 5: A CURIOUS HEART: UNDERSTANDING THE TEST!

GOD'S DESIGN WAS BRILLIANT:

- Everyone gives 10% to the work of the Lord.
- He will take the 90% and stretch it further than the 100%
- GOD SAYS: TEST ME IN THIS AND SEE IF IT WORKS!

TODAY: A TRUSTING HEART: MIRACLE HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE IT AWAY

One of my favorite stories! Found in 3 of the 4 Gospels. John 6, Mark 6 & Luke 9

John 6:1-13 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near. ⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹ “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” ¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who

were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹² **When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.”** ¹³ **So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.**

A few fun add-ons in the other gospels!

John 6:5-7 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, **“Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”** ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for **he already had in mind what he was going to do.** ⁷ Philip answered him, **“It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”**

Luke 9:12-13 Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, **“Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.”** ¹³ He replied, **“You give them something to eat.”**

Mark 6:36-37 Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” ³⁷ But he answered, **“You give them something to eat.”** They said to him, **“That would take more than half a year’s wages^[e]! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”**

THEY WERE GOING TO BE A PART OF THE MIRACLE! THAT WAS THE PLAN!!

JESUS ALREADY KNEW HIS PLAN!

AND HE KNEW WHAT HE WAS WORKING WITH!!

John 6:9 “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

-That is all they had to work with!!

Luke 9:14-15 (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.”¹⁵ The disciples did so, and everyone sat down.

-Jesus says put them in groups of 50!

-Imagine how hard that was.....people ask dumb questions??

-does the number in a group count women and children?

-what if one group has 51?

-can we pick groups?

-what if I want to change groups?

-can my kids be in another group?

-do we have to know the people in our group?

JUST GET IN A GROUP!!!

After an hour of chaos organizing 20,000 people!

A DISCIPLE COMES TO JESUS.....

-Just to clarify.....we still only have 5 rolls and 2 small fish!

Luke 9:16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people.

HUGE.....REMEMBER: Only 5 dinner rolls & 2 fishes divided into 12!

HE BLESSED IT AND GAVE THANKS AND BROKE IT (5 loaves & 2 fish)

DO THE MATH: 20,000 people.....groups of 50.....400 Groups.....33 groups per disciple!

*EACH DISCIPLE HAD TO FEED ALMOST 1700 PEOPLE!

-WITH A FISH NUGGET AND A TINY PIECE OF BREAD!

There was no multiplication yet and they were sent to the crabby & hungry people!

-When they got to the end of the first row.....the food multiplied in their basket!

KEY.....The miracle didn't happen in Jesus hands....it happened in THEIR hands!

Luke 9:16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people.

THE RESULT:

Luke 9:17 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

-That means he went back to the first row and gave them more

THIS WHOLE THING WAS A SET UP! (JOHN 6:6)

-Jesus did this to test them.....HE already knew what he was gonna do!

SUPERNATURAL- They did what they could!

WHO WAS THE MIRACLE FOR:

-The people.....they were hungry! Met a need.

-The disciples.....their faith was stretched and their belief grew.

-THE LITTLE BOY! It was his Lunch!!! More than he could have dreamed!

IMAGINE WHAT IT DID FOR HIM!

2 PRINCIPLES OF MULTIPLICATION (Robert Morris, The Blessed Life")

Luke 9:16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people.

- 1) It has to be blessed before it can multiply!
- 2) It has to be given away before it can multiply!

FIRST: HOW IS OUR MONEY "BLESSED"

Proverbs 3:5-10 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; [6] in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. [7] Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

[8] This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. [9] Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; [10] then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Malachi 3:10-11 ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty.

GOD WANTS TO PARTNER WITH US!!! (Just like the disciples in this story)

“God always blesses obedience”

- 1) It has to be blessed before it can multiply!
- 2) It has to be given away before it can multiply!

It didn't multiply in Jesus hands.....it was BLESSED when it was put in his hands!

The miracle of multiplication took place when it was GIVEN OUT!

-they could have just eaten the Blessed fish and bread!

-THEY HAD TO GIVE IT AWAY TO SEE THE MIRACLE HAPPEN!

THIS HAS BEEN A GENEROSITY JOURNEY!

GENEROUS: showing a readiness to give more of something

TODAY: WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO BE GENEROUS!!!

SO HERE IS OUR NEED! OUR MIRACLE! HERE IS OUR ASK!!!!

- \$8.4 million dollar project! Daycare will finance about \$4.9 million

- THE GAP IS \$3.5 million! HUGE FAITH PIECE!

- TIME, TALENT & TREASURE!

-\$1 million in labor and professional discounts

-\$2.5 million in cash & Pledges

*Typical would be a 3 year CAPITOL CAMPAIGN (raise Double your budget)

*BANK HAS GIVEN US A \$2.5 Million Dollar BRIDGE LOAN!

- They want it secured by \$2.8 MILLION in Pledges!

- THAT IS WHY THESE CARDS MATTER!

CELEBRATE June 29th & 30th

CHALLENGE AS WE ALL TAKE GROUND!

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

- WE HOLD THE THROTTLE!!!

Proverbs 11:24-25 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. **25** A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

God just takes what we have and MULTIPLIES IT!

-You may feel like the boy with just some loaves and fishes!

-GOD MULTIPLIES WHAT WE HAVE!

-What we give are SEEDS! Like planting grass!

-Patches in my yard!

2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 11 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. **7** Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work...**11** You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

WE ARE GOING TO CELEBRATE ON JUNE 29-30! (Thanksgiving to God)