

HANDOUT PART FOUR STEWARDSHIP “EN [TRUST] ED with 5 LOAVES and 2 FISH:

READ JOHN 6:1-14 Story of 5 Loaves and Two Fishes

- Q: What if this Story is *More About Seeing that Feeding?* What if this story is More about the Nature of God and a *Personal Invitation to Trust God* Than it is About Bread and Fish?

Vs 4. John informs us that it was Passover time. Celebrating when God Delivered the Israelites from Bondage in Egypt. God’s people were to take lamb’s blood and spread it on the doorpost of their home so the death angel would pass over them...Preventing Judgment and Condemnation.

- **Today the Pattern Remains the Same, But Now it Points to Jesus. When He Went to the Cross and Shed His Blood, For Every Christian...That is Our Passover.**
- POINT>>For Us to be Passed Over from Judgment *the Lamb's Blood “Must be Applied” to the Believer’s Heart and Life.*

It’s Passover, and as Jesus Provides this Meal of Fish and Bread, He’s Sending a Message “These Jews were going to Jerusalem for a feast that was presided over by priests and ungodly temple leaders, who would Reject Jesus and Crucify Him. *Jesus, knowing that the crowd would not have their spiritual needs met, set up a true feast in opposition to their empty feast.*

Like Jesus did with Phillip He Always Tests Us For A Purpose: James 1:13 tells us that God does not tempt anyone. However, God will Test an Individual and Church Family.

- That’s part of His Nature and how He Develops Us Typically, *We get Squeezed* During a Test, and What’s On the Inside Comes Out, and God Puts it in the Light to Develop.

DON’T let Your Familiarity with this Story Blind You to what’s Happening! It Wasn’t About the Cash on Hand...The Reality of his Answer was HOPELESSNESS.

- But despite the Disciples’ Hopelessness, Jesus told them to Prepare the People for a Meal.

KEY POINT: The Little Boy Yields his Fish and Bread to the Hands of Jesus...At That Point...Everything Changes When this Little Boy Gives Everything he Has. Malachi 3:10

There Are Windows in Heaven that God Opens Over Your Life as You Obediently Follow His Command and Trust Him for His Blessings.

- **KEY: We have More in the Stewardship of 90%...than in the Whole 100%.**

Think about Philip...Here he is with maybe 10,000+ people and Jesus says, FEED THEM.

- IT SEEMS HOPELESS! **BUT IS IT?!!!** *EVER BEEN THERE YOURSELF?*
- “Philip Doesn’t Know What to do. Andrew Doesn’t Either, But [Andrew] Brings the Boy and his Bread and Fish to Jesus’ Attention.

- The Point is Obvious...Often, We have No Idea What to Do, But the *“Starting Point is Always to Bring What We Have and Yield it to Jesus.”*
- When God Opens that Window in Heaven Over Your Life, it's Not Only Material Resources and Meeting Needs. *God's Blessing Is His Favor Resting Upon You, which Includes His Ideas and Insight in Your Mind and Heart.*

In a letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul writes, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” *SO, WHY DOES PAUL SAY WAKE UP!!!*

- Because...It Is Possible to Become So Familiar with the Trappings of Christianity that We Slowly Become Numb to What God Wants Us to Do With His Word.
- We Cannot Overlook the Reality that We Serve a Living God. The Promises We See in Scripture are Always Relevant and Applicable to Our Lives for God's Glory.

You have Access to Jesus and the Blessings Described in this Story. This Reality is True Because Christ bled and died for the Passover of Your Heart. This Miracle is More about Seeing than Feeding Because it's About Knowing the Lord More than His Resources.

- We have an Opportunity to Give So Much...Fish and Loaves in Our Hands are Just Substances...BUT in God's Hands, They Are Multitudes For His Glory.

Lessons We Learn from the Five Loaves and Two Fish Story: We Often Face Struggles in Pursuing Our Purpose and Mission in Life. It can be Tempting to get Discouraged and Give Up when things Become Overwhelming or Difficult, but that would be the Wrong Choice.

- *Instead, as Stewards we Press on in Faith, Knowing that God will Provide what We Need and Encourage Us through Various Circumstances Along the Way.*

This Miracle Teaches Us Several Biblical Lessons of Stewardship:

1. **Principle of Sacrifice:** Sacrifice is an Integral part of Faith and Obedience to God.
2. **Multiplication is God's Responsibility...NOT OURS!**
3. **God is in Control** Prov 19:21
4. **Focus on the Mission and Serving God Wholly:** Matthew 6:33
5. **God is Our Source:** We Manage What He has Provided for His Kingdom! Phil 4:19
6. **Persevere During Trials.** James 1:12
7. **Have Faith That God's Plan is Always Perfect!** Jer. 29:11
8. **Focus on God:** This Miracle Teaches Us to Stay Focused on the Mission and Serve God Wholeheartedly with What He Has Place in Our Hands....Use Your Giftings to Serve God!
9. **Spreading the Gospel:**
- 10 **God Can Do Exceedingly Abundantly More than We Can Ask or Imagine**

Therefore, Victorious Stewardship Happens as, We Keep Our Eyes Focused on God and His Promises...And Live Out Our Lives as Faithful Stewards in His Service.

So when We Are Discouraged and Feel like Giving Up, It's Important to Remember that Nothing is Too Hard for God.

- No Matter what Circumstances may Arise or how Impossible things may Seem.

- We Stay Encouraged by the Hope We Have in Him and Remain Faithful That We Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Gives Us Strength.

“LIFE” POINT: Remember What God was saying to Philip, “YOU CAN’T...BUT I CAN!”