

20210620 You Give Them Something

Introduction

Reading in Mathew about Jesus feeding 5000.

Examine this story to see a picture of God's heart for mankind/the part He has for us in HIS story.

When we became believers we made- decision to join HIS story- not just write our own story.

How do we fit into HIS story?

Are we overly focused on writing our our own story APART from His story?

Matthew 14:14–20 (NASB95)

14When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

15When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

16But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!"

17They said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

18And He said, "Bring them here to Me."

19Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds,

20and they all ate and were satisfied.

They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets.

21There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.

Foundation for Helping v14

Matthew 14:14 When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

Before Jesus fed/healed the people, He first had compassion (pity, sympathy) for them.

Jesus ministry to people was/is driven by His love for people, His concern for their well being.

I am not sure we realize- depth- God's love for us.

>Lamentations 3:22 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

>1 Jn 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us ...

>1 Jn 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.

Jesus'/God's story is filled with love, care, and compassion for mankind.

Rom5:8 But God demonstrates (displays) His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Christ giving up His life for us, so we can live eternally with Him, is a picture of God's love.

Another picture of God's compassion...

Luke 7:12-15 (NASB95)

12Now as He approached the gate of the city, a dead man was being carried out,

the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a sizeable crowd from the city was with her.

Already lost her husband-now her son-desperate.

¹³When the Lord saw her, He felt compassion for her.(overflowed w/love, heart broke) and said to her, “Do not weep.”

¹⁴And He came up and touched the coffin; and the bearers came to a halt. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise!”

¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Jesus saw this woman’s emotional pain/suffering. God is not only concerned with our spiritual needs but also our physical/emotional needs. So, as w/Jesus, any foundation for us-help others must come from a heart of love for them.

Colossians 3:12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

We must understand how much God loves us ..

The greater our revelation of God’s love for us, the greater will be our capacity to love others, with the same love.

God’s love- seed bed from which we- love others. But first we must know that He loves us.

Not an emotional love when things- going good.

But a deep revelation that God loves us even when bad things happen and God is seemingly

nowhere to be found.

Paul says this concerning Christ ...

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Jesus imaged/projected- God the Father to- world

In the same way we have been created to image-project- Jesus, the Son of God, to the world.

We are called to bridge the divide between heaven and earth.

1 Corinthians 15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

Every person has an identity that uniquely bears

God's image- that the world is longing to see.

Rom 8:19 ... creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

Send them Away v15

Mat 14:15 When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

Disciples- looking w/natural eye at- people/food-

concluded- there was nothing they could do.

The disciples saw what we often see when we face a difficult situation ...

lack, insufficient resources, impossibilities.

Jesus saw- what we should see- opportunity to exercise faith in the Father's love, ability, and willingness to help.

How often do we look at a situation and see lack first rather than opportunity for God to move?

Look at feeding the 5000 in John ...

John 6:5–7 (NASB95)

⁵Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him, said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?”

⁶This He was saying to test him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.

⁷Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.”

Jesus knew He was going- work a miracle BUT- He wanted them to learn not to define- outcome of a situation by the apparent lack- resources. He wanted- disciples to see-unlimited possibilities available to them through faith in Christ.

You do Something v16-17

Matthew 14:16–17 (NASB95)

¹⁶But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!”

¹⁷They said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.”

Jesus is not about sending people away, He is about calling people to Himself.

In fact, He challenges- thinking of His disciples.

Jesus says- not only do I not want you to send them away, I want you to ...

>bring them to me

>take care of their needs

We are created-be co-laborers in God’s Kingdom.

The miracle may be the Lords but the hands/feet, flesh/blood, are ours.

Look at another story ...

Matthew 15:22–23 (NASB95)

22And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed.”

23But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, “Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us.” (prejudiced)

This woman and her problems were beyond both the love and therefore the faith of the disciples.

Without love there will never be true faith.

If- taken time to see- woman through God’s eyes- faith would have been released in their hearts.

2 Cor 5:17 ... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature ... We need to speak to others as a new creation, speaking to their purpose and possibility, instead of their problem. Kris Valloton

The needs of people can be overwhelming.

But the compassion/ability to meet those needs- is not in ourselves but in God who says YES.

Mat 10:1 Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

We walk in the unlimited authority of God.

The Mind of Man versus the Mind of Christ

We often place boundaries on God with our own limited, finite, unrenewed way of thinking.

Isaiah 55:9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

Why do we choose to limit God to our thoughts and our ways and our understanding?

When we do this we bring God down to our level and in reality set ourselves up as God.

God’s thoughts/abilities/power- are so much bigger than we can ever imagine.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.

If only we would believe this!

Jesus has commissioned us- be His hands/feet and to allow Him- do mighty works through us.

Bring them to Jesus v18

Matthew 14:18 And He said, “Bring them here to Me.”

We do not have the wisdom or the power to fix people or solve their problems.

But we know Someone that does and it is our task to invite them to- foot of the cross where they can encounter-Living God/receive help

We have access, through the Holy Spirit, to the deepest wisdom and infinite power of God.

We are not called to send them away/ignore them

We are called-be-available vessel in God’s hands

Release a Miracle v19

Matthew 14:19 Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds,

First note- the disciples were given the task of distributing- results of- miracle Jesus worked.

I do not know how to feed 5000 people or even 100 people at a church covered dish dinner.

However, it is obvious that God wants us to partner w/Him to work the miraculous.

God wants to use us to release His love and His provision for people today.

We must move beyond only seeing ...

>what we do not have or

>how daunting the circumstances are

... and believe in the faithfulness, provision, and willingness of God to help.

We are flesh/blood conduits that God wants to use to demonstrate His love/power to- world.

More than Enough v20

Mat 14:20 and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets.

Why was- food left over when Jesus fed- 5000?

If Jesus could feed 5000 certainly He could multiply the exact amount of food needed.

So why was there so much food left over?

Interesting contrast between the NT and the OT.

In the OT when God fed the people with manna they gathered enough for that day.

Any excess would become foul w/worms and rot.

In the NT when God fed the people there was enough food for everyone plus extra.

In the OT God provided just enough but in the NT God has provided more than enough.

We serve a God of more than enough.

Too often our mentality limits us to the natural and fetters our ability to believe for the impossible.

We have been invited to walk in the fullness of His provision and His miraculous life.

Conclusion

As I mentioned in the beginning- God has invited us into His story- the one that He is writing.

Our part in God's story is written slowly over a life time as we watch Him move/our faith grows.

It is so important for our faith that we remember and rehearse what God has done in the past.

Matthew 16:9-10 (NASB95)

9“Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets full you picked up?

10“Or the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many large baskets full you picked up?

As we face each day and its needs ...

1. never forget what God has done for you
2. never doubt His love for you
3. cultivate God's love in you for others
4. believe God is able/willing to work a miracle

We are called to be a ...

Conduits of God's love/power, bridging heaven/earth, to be a blessing to others.

If we are willing- HS living in us- will empower us to love people w/unconditional Christ like love.

One last observation ...

Matt 14:23 After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

The source of Jesus love/power was found in a relationship w\God, cultivated through prayer. This is how we write our story into His story as we build a relationship with Him through prayer.

Prayer Time ...

Ephesians 3:17-19 (NASB95)

¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

¹⁹and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Pray for- release of God's love/power through us.

More ...

Larry Sparks, Ask for the Rain ...

The purpose of the Church is to be a meeting place between God and man, not (*primarily*) a ... receiving place where man comes solely to receive from God. The Church a place for us to give something of ourselves to God.

Doctrine/truth are very important when it comes to healing or working miracles, but our motivation must go beyond the principles and be built on our love for people.

Kris Vallotton ...

**I do not want to be so heavenly minded I am no earthly good, but, I want to be heavenly minded so I am earthly good.
Kris Vallotton**

We must stop thinking past present and start thinking future present. Kris Vallotton

**Instead of reacting to what is, how about we start responding to what should be.
Kris Vallotton**