

JESUS FEEDING THE 5,000 (Lord, What are You Going to do?)

Matthew 14:15-21 John 6:1-13

Introduction: Give background and discuss the situation. God often arranges and allows things in our lives to test and prove our faith. Remember, nothing happens in the life of God's children that He does not allow.

1. Philip's reasoning and approach about the situation is the same as ours today.

- Phillip brought to the Lord a situation...**"What are we going to do?"**
- People were hungry - no place to buy food and where would the money come from for everyone to have just a bite or two at the most?
- He had estimated the number of people...did an inventory of what was available and came to the conclusion that nothing could be done.
- What do we do when we receive bad news? What do we do when unanticipated demands are made on us? What do we do when we lose control of the situation?
"What am I going to do?"
- We begin to do the same thing as Philip - analyze, estimate, plan, wrack the brain, make calls, look around, become fearful, nervous, etc..

2. Philip had seen Jesus perform many miracles, some just a few hours before this event - why would he even worry about what to do?

- And what about us? What have you seen the Lord do in the past?
- Philip had already forgotten the Lord's interest in people and His power to help.
- Have we not also forgotten the Lord's interest in us and His power to help?

3. A little boy gave to Jesus what he had - 5 small loaves of bread and 2 small fish.

- Over 5,000 people and 5 loaves and 2 fish - what is that among so many?
- The little boy willingly gave to Jesus what he had.
- What do you have to give to Jesus? Would you willingly give it all to Jesus?

4. The question that should have been asked was not "What are WE going to do?" but "Lord, what are YOU going to do?"

5. Jesus took over the situation.

- Jesus looked up to the Father, prayed, then began to break up the bread and fish and fill the baskets the disciples had gathered up...Jesus broke the bread and fish and the disciples distributed them..

6. The disciples simply received from Jesus and passed it on to the others.

- They were not responsible in any way for what happened.
- Jesus solved the needs - more than enough.

CONCLUSION

1. God does allow things in our lives to test, to prove our faith.
2. Our reaction to those things God allows to test or prove our faith is the same as that of Phillip.
3. Whenever we finally turn things over completely to God, He will begin to work things out.
4. God always more than solves our difficulties. He always does it in such a way that it brings honor and glory to Himself, not to us.
5. We need to remember what God has done for us in the past as we face life.
6. The question we need to ask when difficulties arise, is not "What am I going to do?", but **"Lord, what are you going to do?"**