

"Leftovers"

Fall Life Groups | Week #9

The sermon titled, "Leftovers" touched on Jesus' miracle of feeding the 5,000 found in John 6. In this passage, multitudes were fed, and there were LEFTOVERS! This miracle points to the power of both obedience and sacrifice. The crowd was eager to hear a message from Jesus, and the boy who supplied the fish and loaves was obedient when a need arose. Because of the joint faith of the crowd (to assemble), the disciples (to obey), as well as the young boy (to sacrifice), a miracle occurred. Let's dive into God's word and uncover the truths found in this text. Let's get started!

Key Scripture: John 6:1-13 | Additional Scriptures: Matt. 5:6, Matt. 6:31-33, Zechariah 4:10

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

For all intents and purposes, those who traveled to hear Jesus preach that day, were so desperate that they left the comfort of their own homelands. Normal was just not enough! Read Matt. 5:6. How does the crowd's demonstration of this verse challenge you? When was the last time you were THAT DESPERATE to get into the Lord's presence?

As they counted the people, the disciples became so focused on what they perceived as lack (We do not have enough to feed the people) that they missed the fact that the miracle-maker, the ultimate provider was in their midst. Have you ever been guilty of focusing on your lack, rather than on God's ability to provide for your need? Read Matt. 6:31-33. According to this verse, what is the biblical order for receiving provision for our needs?

Had the little boy not shared his lunch, people in the crowd may have walked away due to hunger or exhaustion. More than that, it is possible that the miracle may not have ever occurred, because the need may not have arisen. However, when faced with the opportunity to sacrifice, the young man took it, and others were blessed. How does this verse challenge modern society's desire to look out for "number one?" Read Zechariah 4:10. What have you considered meager beginnings in your life? What encouragement can you glean from this story about Jesus' ability to multiply even the smallest of our sacrifices for Him?

In Jesus' hands, even the smallest sacrifice can produce leftovers. What may seem to be insignificant in our eyes can become a miracle for others! Our obedience and sacrifices yield blessings for ourselves as well as others, but we must be careful to give the Lord our best, not OUR LEFTOVERS. Let's get honest and identify the areas in which we have given "less than our best." In the categories of time, talent or treasure have you been bringing leftovers to the Lord? Considering Matt. 6:33, how might you realign your priorities to come into alignment with the truth of God's word?

CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

Realigning our priorities to God's truth is never glamorous. It requires obedience, sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Perhaps, you feel as though your life is in shambles and that things are too far gone for God to use you. You may even feel that the little you have could never make a difference to God. Take heart, the Lord can use ANYTHING and ANYONE to bring Himself glory. What you have been through does not disqualify you from being used by God. Just like the boy who sacrificed his lunch, your life, and your sacrifice – no matter how small - can become a miracle for someone else. What you have been through will not be wasted, and whatever is left over, is evidence that God has a purpose for your life.

Don't waste your leftovers...share them with others! Use this template to write down to write down your testimony, then intentionally share it.

Before Jesus my life was... (Struggles, Hardships, and Things drawing me away from Christ)

My introduction to Christ... (The environment, people, situations that lead to my decision to receive Christ)

Since Jesus my life has been... (Things I have learned and ways that I have grown; How my life has changed)
