

MEETING THE NEED (John 6:1-15)

This miracle of feeding the five thousand by Jesus is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. It has many lessons for us that teach about God, God's people and people in general. It deals with physical as well as spiritual needs that most people have in their lives every day.

PEOPLE ARE NEEDY

John 6:5 They all knew that the crowd was hungry. He could have caused it to rain down manna from heaven but instead He used this experience as a training tool for the disciples and all who would hear this story. The message is that people have needs and God wants to meet those needs.

John 6:26-27 Jesus was compassionate during His ministry on earth and healed the sick, raised the dead and fed the hungry, but He always made the point that the greatest need of people was spiritual.

Matthew 6:31-33 Most people have always put their priorities on their physical needs and desires. Jesus gave many illustrations how we have placed our main interests in the wrong areas of life.

WE CANNOT MEET THE NEEDS

Mark 6:35-36 In this story we see the inadequacies of people helping people by themselves. The easy solution was to just send the people away. What kind of spiritual example was that?

Luke 12:18 Here we see the natural man of the heart, worldly, immature and selfish. Never thinking about being a blessing to others because of your good fortune. Even most believers have this attitude.

James 2:14-16 Here we listen to James writing about believers being selfish and uncaring.

Luke 12:47-48 Jesus is telling us in these verses that for the most part believers are no different than lost people. We do not have a daily spiritual world view of Jesus returning or helping people in need. Much grace, mercy and material gain has been given to many believers who become very selfish.

Luke 16: 10-12 Here the Lord talks about believers being unfaithful with the money God has blessed them with. Take notice that Jesus refers to money as the least of that which we are to be faithful in.

Mark 10:35-37; Matthew 18:3 How can we be spiritually minded and help meet the needs of others when we spend more time thinking about how great we are than thinking about helping people in need?

CHRIST PLUS YOU CAN MEET THE NEED

Colossians 1:27 The greatest news for mankind is that all believers can be used by God to minister to others in need because of the indwelling Christ that wants to rule and lead us through this dark world.

Philippians 4:12-13 Jesus wants us to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into the spiritual life that He says can be an abundant and fruitful life that is lived for Christ and for meeting the needs of others.

I John 4:4 We are reminded over and over about living by faith, living in the Spirit and being spiritually fruitful. The world does not know how to be Godly, compassionate and loving, we do.

John 6:8-9; I Corinthians 1:25 One of the greatest lessons in these verses is taught by Jesus to His disciples regarding the little boy with the few loaves and fishes. The disciples did not remember the miracles that Jesus already had performed. They never thought He could feed so many with so little. The Lord is showing us that by faith the little boy was willing to give what he had for others.

Luke 21:1-4; Ephesians 3:20 The bible teaches us that "little is much when God is in it".

Luke 6:38; Galatians 6:9-10 If we listen to the Holy Spirit and have faith that God will use what we give to Him for His service to bless others He will be pleased with our good work.

FAITH IS NOT SOMETHING WE DO IT IS BELIEVING GOD WILL DO SOMETHING !!