

“Biblical Stories: Jesus... all ‘Fed’ Up!”

2018: The Year of the Winner

Scripture:

John 6:5-15 (NIV)

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⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹ “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” ¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Subject Question: In John’s account of Jesus feeding the 5000, what three truths are conveyed to us as Christians that give us valuable insights as to when Jesus steps into a situation and acts.

Compliment answer: Somebody has to Speak up (Vs.5-7), has to Stand up (Vs. 8-11) and Somebody has to Straighten Up (Vs.12-15).

Big Idea: In John’s account of Jesus feeding the 5000, the three truths that are conveyed to us as Christians that give us valuable insights as to when Jesus steps into a situation and acts are: Somebody has to Speak up (Vs.5-7), Somebody has to Stand up (Vs. 8-11) and Somebody has to Straighten Up (Vs.12-15).

Homiletical Idea: “An Asking Disciple, A Doing Jesus ...”

Purpose: I want the congregation to take to heart and learn what it takes to have Jesus step in and act not only on their behalf, but on behalf of situations and organizations that firmly stand for Him.

Ground Work: GEORGE MUELLER, ORPHANAGES BUILT BY PRAYER

<https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/church-history-for-kids/george-mueller-orphanages-built-by-prayer-11634869.html>

"The children are dressed and ready for school. But there is no food for them to eat," the housemother of the orphanage informed George Mueller. George asked her to take the 300 children into the dining room and have them sit at the tables. He thanked God for the food and waited. George knew God would provide food for the children as he always did. Within minutes, a baker knocked on the door. "Mr. Mueller," he said, "last night I could not sleep. Somehow I knew that you would need bread this morning. I got up and baked three batches for you. I will bring it in."

Soon, there was another knock at the door. It was the milkman. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage. The milk would spoil by the time the wheel was fixed. He asked George if he could use some free milk. George smiled as the milkman brought in ten large cans of milk. It was just enough for the 300 thirsty children.

Let This Story Of God’s Provision Strengthen Your Faith

Steve Fuller

My grandfather left orange growing to preach the Gospel through the radio. But this brought him into a season of trials.

Here’s how he described this to his listeners —

We have come to know God in a new way because of the trials of these past three years. We have known what it is to have much sickness; financial losses; to have those turn against us and seek to hurt us who we thought were true friends; to have our only child brought down to death’s door on two occasions; and to have gone before the microphone, after sleepless nights, so burdened and cast down I did not know whether I could preach.

But then he concludes —

I want to tell you that after going through all this and much more, Mrs. Fuller and I know that God is able — that His promises are true.

Two months later he faced another trial, and again saw God's faithfulness.

An Open Door

My grandfather had trouble finding radio stations that would carry his preaching, because many had policies against religious broadcasting.

But God opened the door for him to take the Sunday evening slot on station KNX, "The Voice Of Hollywood." This was exciting because KNX planned on increasing its broadcast to cover the entire west coast, Alaska, and Hawaii.

But this Sunday time slot was expensive. Some of my grandfather's friends urged him not to move ahead. But he believed this was God's calling, so he made the commitment.

Cancel The Station?

But one Thursday it looked like he had made a mistake. The next day he owed KNX Radio five hundred dollars, or he would need to cancel Sunday's broadcast. But he only had three hundred fifty dollars.

So he sat there, eyeing the phone, wondering if he should make the call to cancel. Finally, with great regret, he decided to make the call.

But just as he reached for the phone, it rang. A dentist friend, who had come to faith through my grandfather's broadcast, was calling.

His first words were — *Charlie, do you need any money?*

My grandfather was shocked, and answered — *Yes, I do.*

The dentist responded — *Well, then, come over and see me.*

What God Had Done

So my grandfather drove to the dentist's home. When he got there, the dentist asked him how much money he needed.

My grandfather answered — *One hundred fifty dollars.*

The dentist turned to his wife, with a stunned look on his face. Then he pulled from his pocket a check he had already made out to my grandfather for exactly one hundred fifty dollars.

And the dentist explained what had happened. He said his wife had woken him up the previous the night and said — *We must give Charles Fuller one hundred fifty dollars tomorrow.*

But the dentist explained to his wife that they only had twenty-five dollars in the bank. But she insisted — *I don't care; we've got to do it.*

He didn't know what to say. So he suggested they talk about it the next day, and they went back to sleep.

The next morning he went to his dental office as usual. But while he was there, a patient unexpectedly arrived, and said he had come to pay his overdue dental bill — which was for eight hundred dollars.

When the bill was paid, the dentist immediately wrote a check for one hundred fifty dollars to my grandfather. Then he drove home to tell his wife what had happened. And he called my grandfather to have him come over — without knowing anything of how close my grandfather was to cancelling his time slot on the KNX radio station.

They were all stunned and strengthened by God's merciful, detailed, faithfulness.

So pray. And trust Him. He is faithful.

Mysterious Ways: Proof of God's Provision

<https://www.guideposts.org/inspiration/miracles/gods-grace/mysterious-ways-proof-of-gods-provision>

We didn't know what to do with the donation we received. God knew, though.

One-hundred-ninety-three boxes of cereal filled up the storage room of the Canby Center, the Christian community [outreach](#) organization and food pantry where my husband serves as director and I volunteer. *Cheerios, Corn Flakes, Wheaties, Raisin Bran, Life, Honey Bunches of Oats*, every cereal you could think of.

They'd arrived Monday morning by truck, brought to us by the cheerful manager of the Burgerville franchise nearby. "Our cereal box drive was a great success," he declared. He'd offered a free milkshake to anyone who participated.

My husband thanked him for the generous [donation](#), but as nice as it was, I worried it was a waste. How would we ever distribute so many boxes?

“Be grateful,” my husband told me. “God will show us what to do with them.”

We’re always looking for food donations, but non-perishable items. Canned goods, mostly. We hadn’t asked Burgerville to do the cereal box drive—it had been initiated by another Oregon food bank that sometimes partnered with us.

Instead, I wished they could have collected money for us to put towards our job training programs or our rental assistance fund. That could go a long way in helping the people in need who came to us daily. I wasn’t sure what help cereal would prove to be.

“Well, maybe the cereal can be snacks for our afterschool program,” I suggested, as if that would put a dent in the supply.

Two days later, my husband received an email from a teacher at a nearby public school that matriculated many at-risk kids who came from impoverished homes. “Come take a look, hon,” he said.

“Students on the free meal program aren’t getting enough to eat,” the teacher wrote. Kids were arriving at school without having eaten anything at home. “Lunches are pre-portioned and we have nothing else to feed them.

“Is there any way the Canby center can provide breakfast items for the remainder of the school year?”

My husband smiled at me. “I think I know where we can find 193 boxes of cereal.”

Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers

(5) The converse with Philip is also peculiar to this Gospel. (Comp. [John 14:8 et seq.](#)) The impression of the immediate antecedents of the miracle is different from, but not opposed to, that of the other narratives. They all represent the request coming from the disciples as the first step. St. John does not say it was not so They represent what took place as seen from the outer circle; he, from

the point of view of those near to his Master. We may think of the group of disciples seated round Him, and of the first-called Andrew and Peter, James and John, and Philip (comp. [John 1:40 et seq.](#)) as closer to Him than the others, who come and speak to Him about the multitudes. While the wants of all are present, the wants of the individuals are not absent. There is something in the character of Philip which this occasion may test. To him is the question spoken which may yet have been an answer to their remark. For “saw a great company come,” read *saw that a great multitude cometh*. It is the vivid present of the crowd coming. “Whence shall we buy bread . . .?” or rather, *Whence are we to buy bread?* with the best MSS.

Benson Commentary

[John 6:5-14](#). *When Jesus lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come to him* — That is, gathered round him; *he saith unto Philip* — Namely, after he had first taught the people many things, as we learn from the other evangelists, and had *healed them, that had need of healing*, [Mark 6:34](#); [Luke 9:11](#); *Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?* — He addressed himself to Philip particularly, because he, being a native of Bethsaida, was best acquainted with that country. *This he said to prove him* — To try what idea he had conceived of his divine power, and to give him an opportunity of observing what followed more attentively. *Philip answered, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient*, &c. — The Roman denarius, or penny, being equal to about seven pence half-penny of English money, two hundred of them were equal to about six pounds five shillings sterling, as much, probably, as their whole stock amounted to. *One of his disciples saith* — In answer to Jesus’s inquiring how many loaves they had, [Mark 6:38](#); *There is a lad here which hath five barley loaves and two small fishes* — He meant which might be purchased of him; *but what are they* — To satisfy the hunger of so great a company? It seems, this disciple did not think on the proofs which Jesus had formerly given of his power, or did not form a just notion thereof. *Jesus said, Make the men sit down* — For an explanation of the circumstances of the miracle recorded in the following verses of this paragraph, see notes on [Matthew 14:15-21](#); [Mark 6:30-44](#). *Then those men* — Who were present upon this occasion, and were thus miraculously entertained, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, after all the wonderful cures he had wrought upon the sick that same day; *said, This is of a truth that prophet* — Who has been so long and impatiently expected by

us, even the Messiah himself; *that should come into the world* — According to the prediction of Moses, [Deuteronomy 18:18](#).

Introduction: It's been said that Jesus will usually act on our behalf at the very, very last minute. And from personal experience I certainly agree. But really, what does it take to not only get Jesus attention, but have Him act in a way that we know that it was Him. We shouldn't be surprised to be the recipients of miracles or what others may call "coincidences." We all as Christians after, all have been touched by His Divine hand---But we usually are. One of the biggest tragedies that really plague the lives of so many people of faith is the inability to actually go beyond ones initial action of faith when one receives Christ t live a life by faith from that moment on. It's almost as if Jesus is good enough to get us into heaven but seemingly we don't feel we can bother him with our lives here on earth. Nothing Beloved could be further from the truth. Jesus told us in John 16:14: *Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.* Today's text takes place at the intersection of need and action—our need—His action. And thus, we find three truths that should inform us of what it takes to have Jesus act on our behalf: Somebody has to Speak up (Vs.5-7), Somebody has to Stand up (Vs. 8-11) and Somebody has to Straighten Up (Vs.12-15). Lets explore this text with the words of James on our minds...

(You have not because you ask not)

- A. Somebody has to Speak up (Vs.5-7). *⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages^[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"*
- B. Notice three key elements. First, Jesus knew there was a need. Before we go any further, as a child of God every now and then we need to step back and assure ourselves that God is not unaware of the situation before us—the visit to the doctor, the rent to be paid, the child whom has gone astray.... He knows what we are facing. He understands the trepidation we may be feeling. We sing don't we, "His eye is on the

sparrow and I know He watches me.” What we really mean is, His eye is on the sparrow and I think His eyes on me. Or better yet, His eye is on the sparrow and he’s not paying attention to me...? Stop that! He not only is the Alpha and the Omega, He knows **our** beginning from our end. Everyday appointed us is already written down as the psalmist proclaimed. There was a day ordained for you to be born, there is a day ordained for you to go be with him. There are numerous days for you and me to be trouble-free. And there are days, challenging days when you and I have needs that seemingly go beyond our ability to handle or meet us... we need help. Jesus knew there was a need

- C. Secondly however, Notice that Jesus pushed Philip to own the need. He didn’t go to any of the other disciples. I’m sure that Philip wished that he had. No, Jesus insisted that Philip own the problem. And here is our second insight concerning Jesus methodology when it comes to meeting our personal needs: you and I have to own it---you can’t just push it off on someone else to take care of. You can’t just ignore it and hope that it will go away. Lord, I have a problem... I have a need. Keep in mind that I am sure that Philip was already aware of the need at hand—He wasn’t Oblivious to the obvious... No, Jesus kind of helped good ole Philip to see the need, to notice it for what it was—a problem that was beyond his personal ability to solve...! *7 Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages^[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”* To which Jesus must have thought with a smile---good... who are you going to turn to... who are you going to look to for help. And that was the test that John had mentioned. And that is the test that is still present on every impossible situation that comes our way. Because to be quite frank, as long as we have the resources or the ability to solve our problem or provide for our need, we simply don’t need Christ to step in—He’s already equipped us in advance with the answer. But put us in a no win situation and He simply says as a test for you and me--- who are you going to look to here?
- D. You see someone had to speak up. Someone had to own the problem. Someone had to state the obvious. And the obvious was if God did not act, then the situation was or is truly hopeless. And if you think about it, could have it been that Jesus laid this burden on Philip’s heart simply to get Philip into a conversation with Him about the problem. Next time

you feel the weight of an impossible situation, a need that you can't meet, don't just say as a statement of frustration; "O Lord have mercy what am I going to do." But turn it around, get your spiritual feet underneath you... and start a real conversation by saying Lord, have mercy, I have a problem, I can't see the answer, what are you going to do...

(You have not because you ask not)

A. Somebody has to Speak up, Somebody has to Stand up (Vs. 8-11)...

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there).¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

B. Notice however, that there was a call to not just take notice of a need and discuss it in faith with Jesus, but then take action about the need as one has faith in Jesus. Think about those who, in faith, gave up something in this situation. The little boy gave up His lunch—he was willing to go hungry, he was willing to say, "here" to Jesus and with a growling stomach say, take this, "if you're hungry—you can have it." I can almost see tears in Jesus eyes at such sincerity and such selflessness. I can almost see the joyful pride as the disciples took the bread and the fish and embarrassingly wondered who they were going to give this little, this only piece of bread and fish to—the pleading hungry eyes of so many. And Jesus saying, "go ahead give it away-give it all away..." and they at first thinking, give what away... But still giving pushing their dignity and pride aside,, they each reached into the seemingly near empty bag and pulling out one piece, then another , then having the faith to reach back into the bag and finding another.... and I can just see them in their excitement running around, smile on their faces, tears on their eyes, reaching in and they gave and gave and gave---every now and then looking back to see the smiling face of Jesus standing there with a little boy at his side.

- C. God can do a lot when people are willing to do a little. When like the young boy, it was to Jesus he sacrificed all that he had. God can do the impossible when someone will stand-up and move out in faith sacrificing ones dignity and pride because after all Jesus told me too.... The intersection of need and action is always at the crossroads of sacrifice and obedience.
- D. Which leads us to the lesson in this part of the story. Whenever you find yourself in the midst of trying to meet a need, ask yourself, what I can give, what can I do, what would Jesus have me to sacrifice---for him. What can I willingly, obediently, and lovingly place in His hands....could it be for the Christian, a truth that not even a cup of cold water given in my name will not go unnoticed. Can it be for the child of God the truth that all of giving really is giving to the Lord that we love and the God that we cherish? Could it be for the Christian that we are called to be people with hearts of faith but also with feet of action?

(You have not because you ask not)

- A. Somebody has to Speak up, Somebody has to Stand up, Somebody has to Straighten Up (Vs.12-15). *¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.*
- B. I often have wondered at why this last part of the story was included. Until I realized that the same disciples that had distributed the bread and the fish, the same apostles who had been lifted up in the sight of the people, were indeed same ones who were given the menial task of straightening up—collecting the leftovers.
- C. There is a truth to be learned here... and it's more about attitude than anything else. Jesus said; when you give don't let your right hand know what your left hand is doing. The truth of the matter is, we serve a miracle working God but we are not miracle workers or gods. We are the

called, the elect, and the ones whom God works through. Our place is one of humility. Of being those who are increasingly comfortable living out our lives in the shadow of the cross. Any glory or honor isn't really ours, but His. Of ever increasing gracefulness and gratefulness just to be a part of a wondrous group known as His body, His clan, the church.

- D. When does Christ work on our behalf? When someone purposely speaks up, when someone boldly stands up and when someone willingly straightens up. James reminds us, that You have not because you ask not, to which Jesus says... *Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete*