

15 March 2023

"Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

2 Timothy 3:16, John 6:1-13: The subject for this evening's message is found in (V12), "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

Jesus had just miraculously fed thousands of hungry people with 5 loaves of bread, and 2 small fish. Just before He miraculously multiplied the bread and the fish to feed this great multitude, His disciple Andrew looked at the 5 loaves of bread and the 2 small fish and said this to Jesus,

"But what are they among so many?" It was just a little bit of food, how could it feed thousands!

For our Sunday fellowship meals, we could actually look at all the food in the back, and say, "WHY SO MUCH FOOD FOR SO FEW PEOPLE"? in our passage, Jesus miraculously fed multitudes of hungry people with very little food, we (very often) feed very few people with too much food.

Brethren, your Christian life touches every aspect of your life... This includes your eating and drinking. 1 Corinthians 10:31

Some sins that are so rampant, so common in the world, and in our society that no one seems to notice them... or even thinks of them as sins... one such sin is how wasteful we are with the food that God gives to us.

This multitude that the Lord Jesus fed did not have cupboards full of food; they did not have stocked refrigerators and freezers with a variety of foods to choose from.

Their foods were gathered from a few main staples and that was it... bread, fish or meat, and berries or fruit and vegetables. They would prepare and eat their food for each day; the next day's food was not with them today.

In every instance, in which the Lord Jesus multiplied the bread and fish and fed the thousands.. after they all finished eating, they were not rebuked for not finishing what was before them, but the food that remained was also NEVER WASTED or THROWN OUT.

Jesus commanded His disciples to "gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

It has burdened and grieved me (of late) to see how much food we waste on fellowship Sundays. Not a Sunday passes when I do not see full plates of uneaten food in the trash. Oftentimes, this is probably from us throwing away what our children didn't eat, because we put too much food on their plates, (that one big problem), or because they threw it away without us knowing it.

Brethren, when it comes to feeding our children, we must learn to give them a reasonable portion, and when they don't finish it, we should wrap it up for them to finish later.

Don't teach your children that it's OK to throw away good food.

We know absolutely nothing of what it is like to ONLY have enough food for one day...or to lack food; we know nothing but plenty...we fare sumptuously every day, and because of this, it's nothing for us to take too much food on our plates, and then when we've had enough, we just throw it out.

If we "RIGHTLY" view every meal as given by God, and we thank Him for it before we eat it, SHOULD WE be throwing away what God has given to us? "Give us this day, our daily bread."

And then, last this evening: Did your momma ever tell you, "your eyes are bigger than your stomach when you took too much to eat?"

There's not a one of us that is not guilty of taking TOO MUCH to eat on our plates... brethren, we need to learn to take reasonable portions of food to eat during our fellowship meals...and at every meal!

Oftentimes, for those that are in the back of the line, the main course foods are gone by the time they get there... you might be thinking... we need to bring more! No brethren, we need to take less and think about everyone.

We MAY NOT think of EATING and DRINKING as spiritual... but it is...it is the outward show of how much inward self-government we possess over our own bodies and over our own appetites.

Listen, everything that we do as Christians is Spiritual, and it should show forth Christ in our lives..... even in our eating and drinking.

Proverbs 25:16, 30:7-9, 9:24-27, Romans 6:12, 12:1-2

I'll close with a passage in Ezekiel, in which God reveals the sins of Sodom, one of her most prominent sins was not what you might think.

Ezekiel 16:49-50: "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore, I took them away as I saw good."

Remember that your Christianity TOUCHES EVERY ASPECT of your life, in your eating and drinking...and in your carefulness to not be wasteful with the food that God gives you each day.