

Luke 9:11-17

11 But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him;

What were the crowds aware of?

1. They were aware of what was recorded at the end of verse 10
2. *He withdrew by Himself to a city called Bethsaida.*

Not, why had He withdrawn to Bethsaida?

1. He had pulled aside likely intending to rest and refuel. A lot had just occurred.
2. In verses 1-6 he had sent his 12 disciples out.
 - a. He called them together
 - b. He empowered them, giving them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.
 - c. He sent them on a dual mission
 1. To proclaim the kingdom of God
 2. To perform acts of healing.
3. In verses 7-9 we find out that they caused quite a stir.
 - a. They have Herod the tetrarch greatly perplexed.
 - b. Such amazing things are being reported to him that he is afraid John has risen from the dead, or that Elijah or one of the prophets has risen again.
4. In verse 10 they celebrate what all they had done for Him upon their return.
5. Then Jesus takes them with Him and withdraws to Bethsaida.

11 But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; 12 Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place."

If they are to eat, they must leave; and if they are going to leave, they must be told to do so.

1. Imagine that...the people are getting hungry, but they aren't about to miss what Jesus is doing and saying!
2. If they are going to go eat, Jesus needs to tell them to leave or they aren't leaving!
3. When is the last time, Jesus has been so present at church that people had to be told...please depart and go get lunch? (and that is not meant to be cute or funny...its meant to be heart-breaking).
4. The disciples encourage Jesus to send them on their way before it got too late for them to find food.

They disciples were always advising Jesus to send people away.

1. Matthew 15:23 *And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us."*

2. Luke 18:15 *And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they began rebuking them.*

3. Luke 9:49 *John answered and said, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name; and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow along with us."*

4. Don't bother the master and don't bother us was often their slogan.

13 But He said to them, "You give them something to eat!" And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we go and buy food for all these people." 14 (For there were about five thousand men.)

1. The disciples are understandably overwhelmed needing food for a crowd consisting of 5000 adult males, not even to mention the women and children

2. Matthew 14:21 *There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.*

3. The trouble with these disciples was that they concentrated all their attention on the vast hungry crowd and forgetting about Jesus!

a. Isn't that when we get overwhelmed?

b. When we focus our eyes and attention on the problems before us instead of the Savior beside us?

4. They were forgetting about Jesus!

And He said to His disciples, "Have them sit down to eat in groups of about fifty each." 15 They did so, and had them all sit down. 16 Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them, and broke them, and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the people. 17 And they all ate and were satisfied; and the broken pieces which they had left over were picked up, twelve baskets full.

Obviously this is one of Jesus' most well known miracles: feeding the 5000.

1. Jesus clearly performs a miracle here.

2. But, in this case, He very clearly uses His disciples to deliver that miracle.

I think we can get insight from this story into how Jesus is still working through His people today.

1. **They obeyed His Word** v14-15

He said to His disciples, "Have them sit down to eat in groups of about fifty each." 15 They did so, and had them all sit down.

a. John 3:36 *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*

b. John 14:15 *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments*

c. 1 John 5:2 *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.*

2. He Blessed what they had v16

16 Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them, and broke them, and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the people.

We often think that it takes a certain kind of person, with certain gifts and talents, for God to use.

1. We affirm this type of thought in our society.
2. The person down the street comes to know Christ and we say “that’s good.”
3. Some Hollywood actor or some famous athlete or singer professes Christ and we get all beside ourselves...after all...they have such a platform! Think of how God is going to use them to change the world!

Let us think about it like this.

1. The guy down the street would be like the 5 loaves and 2 fish guy
2. The superstar would be like the owner of the biggest food franchise in town.
3. What is the bigger miracle that give more glory to God?
 - a. Jesus using the five loaves and 2 fish of the guy down the street...or
 - b. Jesus saying, y’all all load up, we are going to the buffet down town!

Jesus doesn’t go looking for the big whigs!

1. He looks for the insignificant guy with 5 loaves and 2 little fish.
2. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 *For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 so that no man may boast before God.*

He looks for the obedient and uses what they have...whatever they have!

1. Matthew 25:14-30
2. Jesus looks for the obedient and He blesses their obedience however small and insignificant it seems.
3. He can use so little to do so much.
4. 2 Kings 4:1-7

A shepherd boy, a simple sling, and one small stone killed a giant,

1. The problem is not a lack of stones, or that our stones are too small.
2. The problem is we refuse to sling the stones we have: just obey and let God bless as He sees fit.

3. He satisfied above and beyond v17

17 And they all ate and were satisfied; and the broken pieces which they had left over were picked up, twelve baskets full.

Look at what happens.

1. The disciples obey.
2. Jesus blesses their obedience
3. And every person in the crowd was satisfied with plenty of left overs.

The sooner we learn this one thing, the better...Jesus satisfies.

1. Nothing else does. No one else does. It is Christ alone.
2. Augustine said it this way: "*Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and **our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.***"
3. The sooner we realize that satisfaction can only be found in Christ, the better!

Psalm 16:11 *In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

Conclusion: Do you know this joy? GOSPEL