

The Journey of Faith

Looking For Loaves in All the Wrong Places

John 6:1-21

Intro: Everyone can list a few impossibilities...

1. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear
2. You can't get blood out of a turnip
3. You can't make a crab walk straight

John 1: Jesus chose local fishermen and tax gatherers

John 2: Jesus makes wine out of water

John 5: Jesus healed a lame man- 38 years

Impossible? This word wasn't even in Jesus' vocabulary

A. What about your vocabulary?

1. "can't" and "won't work" an "impossible"
2. What's on your list of impossibilities?
 - a. Your marriage?
 - b. Your job?
 - c. Your finances?
 - d. Your family?
 - e. Relationships with brothers & sisters in Christ?

B. Watch once again how Jesus interacts in the lives of others

1. Jesus does the impossible (feeding the 5000)
2. If He can do this with fish and bread, imagine what He can do with your life & impossibilities!

I. Perspective (Impossibility is really a matter of perspective)

For a child, many things seem impossible (like baking, painting or long division), but not for most adults

...let's look at the impossible from two perspectives (The human and the divine)

A. The human perspective- Webster- "impossible" as incapable of being or of occurring... difficult... hopeless

B. The divine perspective- Nothing is too heavy for God to lift

1. **Jeremiah 32:17**
2. **Jeremiah 32:27**
3. **The NT Lk 1:37 & 18:27**

C. Here are two threads of truth running through the Bible

1. God's power is unlimited
2. God's promise is unconditional

II. Biblical Example (John 6:1-15 human impossibility and the force of divine power)

A. The setting vv. 1-4

1. Because of Passover (crowds)
2. No doubt that the disciples and Jesus needed some R&R but not the crowds

B. The opportunity-- (human problems seen from a divine perspective)

1. From a human perspective-- The crowd is overwhelming **v. 10**
2. From a divine perspective-- The crowd wasn't an uncontrollable situation, but an opportunity!

a. To reveal God's glory

b. Stretch His disciple's faith muscle **v. 5**

c. Jesus was in complete control **v. 6**

d. Alexander knows: a great chess player is always thinking several steps ahead

e. We see Jesus plotting His strategy in order to build the faith of His disciples

A freebie- When you realize that your circumstances, no matter how overwhelming or pressing, are ruled by a King who seeks your highest good, you can truly "consider it all joy..."

when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance... that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing (James 1:2-4)

1. “?”- is that how you view circumstances that crowd you or bring unexpected pressure?

2. If not- look at how the King moves on the chess board of life

C.The test (Philip is appointed/Andrew volunteers)

1. Philip

a. He gives Jesus the spread sheet answer (8 months wages wouldn't be enough for a bite! v. 7)

b. Philip's balance sheet does not take into account the wealth and power of God

Eph 3:20

c. Philip's exam? (I guess an “F”)

He fails in three areas

- Sees the situation/not the solution
- More concerned with the odds against them
- Calculates only a bare minimum

2. Andrew (he looks around the crowd for groceries vv. 8-9)

a. Andrew- scores a little better than Philip

•A careful optimist (He at least seeks a solution even though it's a human one)

b. However, like Philip, he becomes overwhelmed by the circumstances as well

Looking for loaves in all the wrong places!

1. Philip looks first to the budget

2. Andrew decides to look in the pantry

3. But neither of them thinks to look to the Lord first!

-This seems strange (Jesus turns water into wine)

4. But we also respond much in the same way don't we?

- We've all seen Jesus work the impossible in our lives
- We've seen Him change the old water of our lives into new wine!
- We've seen Him give new legs of faith to our lame spiritual bodies.
- Yet when faced with impossible circumstances, how soon we forget the power of God

5. The next time you are faced with the impossible, try not to look at your bank account or Old Mother Hubbard cupboards.

•Look first to Jesus, the bread of life, *who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine*”

Conclusion: The response (Jesus vv. 10-13)

A. Jesus prays to God & gave as they wanted

1. 12 baskets full of leftovers (Hmmm)

2. The disciples scratch their heads

3. And the kid is probably smiling

B. The disciples

1. Jesus throws a pop quiz (John 6:15-21) Mark 6:45-51

2. Their grade? v. 51,52

C. The people's (vv. 14-15)

1. Amazed

2. Manipulative

D. Yours (How will you respond to this miracle?)

1. Philip (Pessimistic?)

2. Andrew (Guarded optimism)

3. Other disciples (slept through it all)

4. Eager young boy (He was willing to give what he had and waited with open eyes how the Lord used it to overcome?)

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