



Sharing God's Abundance in Love!

CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.

Day 20—Friday, January 26, 2018

Prayer Focus—Fishers for Kids, YMCA, CtK Preschool

Abundant Generosity

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.

John 6:8-13

I thought and prayed about this scripture for a long time. Let's dig deeper and see what we find.

We all know and have testimony to the fact there is nothing impossible for God or his Son, and we are grateful to be included in his Grace. While this scripture seems to be about the gratitude of the men who sat on the grass to eat, it says so much more. We can safely assume the men who sat on the grass to eat their fill are most assuredly grateful for the nourishment. Taken from our own lives, it is great when food is provided for a gathering. Remember in kindergarten when we were given snacks and read a story? But, while we are grateful, do we have abundant gratitude?

This scripture is also a lesson specifically designed for Andrew. There is a very specific lesson Jesus is teaching him, one in which John calls him out by name. Andrew shows his lack of faith in Jesus. He questions what they should do and worries over the lack of abundance. He has not learned the one simple truth: Nothing is impossible for our Lord Jesus. For those who follow Christ and believe in him, abundance will follow.

We believe in Christ and his teachings. If we experienced Christ as Andrew had up to this point in his ministry, would we have faith or question him? Do you question the Lord in your life? When the Lord puts something on your heart, do you listen?

Jesus is teaching us how more than food is used to feed us. The men gather to hear Jesus preach and they are fed. Spiritually the souls are fed. Our spirit needs fed or it withers and starves. We feed ourselves through fellowship and God's word. Jesus spoke to these men. They listened and were fed—both their physical bodies and their spirit.

Jesus also instructs them to gather up the leftovers so nothing is wasted. God's grace is never wasted; it is freely given in abundance. Never throw it out or waste it. What began as only 5 loaves and 2 fish were multiplied to feed thousands, and there were exactly 12 baskets of leftovers. This number is the same as the original twelve disciples. It would be interesting to explore the significance of this in fellowship with one another.

Father, you have saved them and called them with a holy calling, not according to works, but according to your own purpose. Lord, we pray for Fishers for Kids, YMCA, and our weekday preschool and ask for your grace and compassion for those who work and volunteer in these activities. Lend them your strength. Lord, I ask that you continue to share your abundance for those who desperately need it. Thank you, for all that you have done and will continue to do for CtK. In your Holy Name, Amen.

Adrian Algire

