

## **Baskets of God's Leftovers**

*Mark 6:30-44*

In Mark 6:30-44, we see a picture of crowds of people that have been following Jesus and listening to Him teach. It is now dinnertime, and the dilemma of the hungry followers begins a progression of events that result in the miraculous.

**\*Jesus presents the need to the disciples: "YOU give them something to eat"!**

The disciples are weary. They have just returned from their first preaching tour and are looking for a time of rest. Instead, the crowds follow them and Jesus, as always, has compassion on their need.

**\*The disciples respond with frustration and helplessness: the task is too great!**

The disciples calculate the amount it would take to feed that crowd...but they omit Jesus from their calculations. The realization of their complete inadequacy to meet the need overwhelms them.

**\*Jesus meets the need!**

Despite their tiredness, frustration, and inadequacy, Jesus uses what the disciples have to give. He blesses and multiplies their tiny contribution, and then gives it back to them to give to others. R. Alan Cole in his commentary on Mark says, "Jesus reminds them that they can meet any emergency which is not of their own making, by the use of what they have, though it is totally inadequate, if only it is first offered in its totality to Jesus to be used by Him. God does not usually lead us to see a need unless it is in His mind to meet that need; often through us, unwilling though we may be."

**\*God's provision is abundant!**

The disciples serve the people until all are satisfied. Then they borrow baskets and begin collecting the leftovers...so many that each of them has his own basketful of leftovers! "It is a mark of God's provision that it is always enough and more than enough for all our needs; and yet it is also typical of God's economy that there should be no waste, and that we should learn to be good stewards of God's bounty" (R. Cole). These baskets of food would be their provision in the days to come.

### **Application**

**1. SEE the need**

God leads us to SEE the needs around us. Remember, He does not usually lead us to see the need unless it is in His mind to meet that need.

**2. SURRENDER the need to God**

Only when our inadequate abilities and our meager financial resources are totally surrendered to Him can He bless and multiply our offering.

**3. SUPPLY to others what God has miraculously supplied to you**

He gives us the privilege of participating in His miraculous work by calling us to give to others until the need is met, out of the abundance that He has given us. The disciples were tired, frustrated, and reluctant to meet the needs of this huge group of people. Do you think they continued to feel that way as they wonderingly passed out an endless supply of food? When we are participating in *God's* work, we are energized and awed by what He is accomplishing.

**4. SUFFICIENCY in our own lives is the result**

When we are giving out of what God has blessed and multiplied, we find that His "leftovers" will fill our baskets and provide abundant nourishment.