

Morning Worship January 7, 2018

"Wonder Bread" John 6:1-14

I. *Our Lord, Jesus Christ, can work miracles even in the worst of situations – The background of Christ's feeding of the five thousand is detailed in Matthew 14 -*

1. *John the Baptist was just beheaded, his disciples joined Jesus, :10 – 12; So, he sent and had John beheaded in prison. ¹¹ And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. ¹² Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus. (Matthew 14:10-12 NKJ)*
2. *Jesus was aiming for some quiet time, this means with His and John's disciples, not the crowd :13, ¹³ When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. (Matthew 14:13A NKJ)*
3. *but the crowd followed them, He healed their sick all day - :13b -14 But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴ And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. (Matthew 14:13B-14 NKJ)*
4. *At evening, the disciples wanted to send the people away - :15, ¹⁵ When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." (Matthew 14:15 NKJ) because it was near the Passover, many of these people were already far from their homes –*

Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. (John 6:4 NKJ)

5. *Jesus says let's feed them - :16." ¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." (Matthew 14:16 NKJ)*

When we think of doing what we might do for God, or for His people, we often look ahead, to an imaginary time when things aren't so CRAZY, when we might be less busy, or maybe we are thinner, or healthier, or better trained, or we have more money? Yet God can work, now, even during these harder times! In fact, it maybe He prefers using us during our difficult times –

Before the winds that blow do cease,
Teach me to dwell within Thy calm;
Before the pain has passed in peace,
Give me, my God, to sing a psalm.
Let me not lose the chance to prove
The fullness of enabling love.
O Love of God, do this for me:
Maintain a constant victory.

Before I leave the desert land
For meadows of immortal flowers,
Lead me where streams at Thy command
Flow by the borders of the hours,
That when the thirsty come, I may
Show them the fountains in the way.
O Love of God, do this for me:
Maintain a constant victory.

Amy Carmichael

II. *Our Lord, Jesus Christ, can work miracles even with the LEAST resources, and He chooses to use the humblest of people –*

One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, ⁹ "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" (John 6:8-9 NKJ)

“Do not let us imagine, then, that we are too poor, too stupid, too ignorant, too obscurely situated, to do any real good in the world where God has placed us. Christ loves the humble and accepts the little. Take but one instance—kind words. A kind word of praise, of sympathy, of encouragement—it would not cost you much, yet how often does pride, or envy, or indifference prevent you from speaking it. The cup of cold water, the barley loaves, the two farthings—how often we are too mean and too self-absorbed to give even these. And are we not to give them because we cannot endow hospitals, or build cathedrals, or write epics?” Robertson Nicoll

Probably only a child would think to offer so little regarding feeding so many? Andrew has doubts, but at least he was not silent in presenting the lad's offer to Jesus!

1. *This was my passage as a young, shy preacher!*
2. *This is our passage as an older, small church!*
3. *God chooses and uses humble people, those who seem to have little to offer –*

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1 Corinthians 1:27-29 NKJ)

4. *God uses a “not eloquent” Moses, to lead His people out of Egypt*

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 A. *Moses, after God had already shown him the staff into snake, and leprous hand miracles still complained -*

Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." (Exodus 4:10 NKJ)

B. *Yet, we will never win an argument with God -*

So, the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?¹² "Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say." (Exodus 4:11-12 NKJ)

III. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, thanks God for whatever is given –

And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed *them* to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. (John 6:11 NKJ)

After having given thanks. “Christ has oftener than once instructed us by his example that, whenever we take food, we ought to begin with prayer. For those things which God has appointed for our use, being evidences of his infinite goodness and fatherly love towards us, call on us to offer praise to Him; and *thanksgiving*...” John Calvin

IV. What God, Jesus Christ, can do, through me and you –

And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed *them* to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.¹² So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that

remain, so that nothing is lost."¹³ Therefore they gathered *them* up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." (John 6:11-14 NKJ)

1. *Note, Jesus did not need the five loaves or two fishes, or the disciples as distributors –*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1 NKJ)

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (Genesis 1:3 NKJ)

It is said, and is true, God creates ex nihilo, meaning out of nothing, and so does Christ, which is maybe what Christ did in John 6?

2. *He does not need us, but He chooses us to be part of what He does –*

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you* are God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:9 NKJ)

3. *This means whatever kind of ministry we might have, we should always be humble about it –*

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. (2 Corinthians 4:7 NKJ)

4. *Note there is an excellence and abundance to Christ's ministry - and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. (John 6:13 NKJ)*

5. *Donald Grey Barnhouse speaks of adding your ZERO to Christ –*

- A. *Put your one ZERO behind Christ and you have 10*
- B. *Put your two zeros behind Christ and you are 100*
- C. *Three zeros behind Christ and you are 1,000*

"One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the LORD your God is He who fights for you, as He promised you. (Joshua 23:10 NKJ)

Arnold A. Brevick