

“Who then *can* be saved?” **But** Jesus looked at them and said, “**With men it is impossible, but not with God; with God all things are possible.**”

- B. The Impossible Gospel Command Accomplished: One incident cited: “...Now we *believe*, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him, and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.” Jn.4:42
1. By the Lord Jesus’ **gracious work of redemption**, Gal.3:13, 14 “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), **that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**”
  2. By the Holy Spirit’s **imparted enablement** -- Jn.3:3, 5-7, “Jesus answered and said to him (Nicodemus), ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**’ **Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’**”; Eph.2:8, 9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is **the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**”; Phil.2:12b, 13 “...**work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you both to will and to do His good pleasure.**”

#### IV. Other Applications to Believers

- A. Matt.5:44 “But I say to you, **love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you, and persecute you.**”
- B. I Peter 1:16 “**Be holy; for I am holy.**”
- C. Eph.5:1, 2 “Therefore **be imitators of God** as dear children. **And walk in love just as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.**”
- D. Phil.4:6; I Thes.5:16, 17; Eph.5:22, 25; 6:1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 14

## The Impossible Made Possible

### Subtitle: The Insufficient Made Sufficient

Mt.14:15-21; Mk.6:32-44; Lk.9:11-17; Jn.6:5-14

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Introduction: Can you do anything that is impossible? \_\_\_\_\_

The 3 things to remember (learn) from this incident in Christ’s earthly life: The Command, The Enablement, and The Abundance of the Enablement

#### I. The Impossible Commanded – recorded in 3 of the 4 Gospels: “...You \_\_\_\_\_ them something to eat.” Mt.14:16; Mk.6:37; Lk.9:13

- A. Not suggested, nor given as an option to do if they were so inclined to do so. It is an **imperative**, a command.
- B. Note the stated purpose for which the Lord Jesus gave this command, (found in Jn.6:6, which is addressed to Philip in particular, but to all the disciples in general:) “...to **test him**...” (To make his faith in Christ stronger )
- C. Note the disciples’ initial response to this command
  1. How would you describe the disciples’ initial response?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  2. They did not know HOW to obey the command that the Lord Jesus gave to them, Mk.6:37b
    - a. The first thing that the disciples considered was their **own** (personal) **resources**, Mk.6:37. What was Philip’s correct and accurate assessment of these resources? (cf. Jn.6:7) \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. Then the disciples expanded their search to include **all** the resources of **others** there that day, Mk.6:38. What was Andrew’s correct and accurate assessment of all these resources? (cf. Jn.6:9) \_\_\_\_\_
  3. They did know to whom to turn for the enablement to obey what the Lord Jesus had commanded them: the \_\_\_\_\_ . What, in our text, manifests that the above was true of the disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

## II. The Impossible Accomplished – recorded in all 4 of the Gospels: “...and \_\_\_\_\_ the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples \_\_\_\_\_ to the multitudes.” Mt.14:19; Mk.6:41; Lk.9:16; Jn.6:11

A. Question: HOW did the disciples do the impossible?!?

B. Answer:

1. By the **miraculous work** of the Lord Jesus – “..took...looking up...blessed...brake...” Mt. 14:19; Mk.6:41; Lk.9:16; Jn.6:11.
2. By the **gracious enablement** given to His insufficient disciples – Mt.14:19b; Mk.6:41b; Lk.9:16b, and Jn.6:11b

C. Lesson to Learn: For **every** commandment God has given to the N.T. believer, He has given the **enablement** to obey. (See further 2 Pet.1:3)

## III. Note the Abundance of the Enablement Imparted – “So they all ate and were filled, and they took up \_\_\_\_\_ baskets full of the fragments that remained.” Mt.14:20; Mk.6:42; Lk.9:17; Jn.6:13

A. Not only were the disciples enabled to do the impossible, they were able to do the impossible **abundantly!** We see this in:

1. Mk.6:42 “So they all ate and were filled.” No one left that day still hungry. Everyone’s need was met.
2. Mk.6:43 “And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish.” In addition to feeding this multitude to their full satisfaction, there were 12 baskets of leftovers remaining when all was said and done! That is **more than** what they started with!

B. Application: God does not just give enough to His beloved, redeemed people to barely meet their needs. **He gives abundantly!!** We see this in the believer’s salvation and throughout the believer’s pilgrimage here on earth.

1. This is how God **gives the Holy Spirit** to every, born again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Titus 3:5, 6, “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the **Holy Spirit**, 3:6, **whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior;**”

2. This is how the Holy Spirit **imparts** “the love of God” into believers. Rom.5:5 “Now hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God has been poured out in our hearts** by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”
3. This is how God **gives His peace** to His elect people. Jn.14:27 “Peace I leave with you, **My peace** I give to you...”. This is the “...**the peace of God which surpasses all understanding...**” Phil.4:7
4. This is how God **gives His promises** to His redeemed people. 2 Pet.1:3, 4 “as His divine power has **given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,” 1:4 by which have been **given to us exceedingly great and precious promises**, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
5. This is how God **supplies His people’s needs**. Phil.4:19 “And my God shall supply **all your need according to His riches in glory** by Christ Jesus.” - These riches are infinite in abundance; they never run out, nor are in short supply!

C. Eph.3:20, 21. “Now to Him who is **able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us, 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generation forever and ever. Amen.”

## IV. The Application to Salvation

- A. The Impossible Gospel Command: “...**Repent and believe** in the gospel.” Mk.1:15  
-Consider the impossibility of obeying this gospel command in our own strength – Jer.13:23 “**Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spot? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.**”; Rom.3:10-12, 23; Rom.8:7,8 “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed **can** be. **So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**”; Mk.10:25-27 “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a need than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” And they were greatly astonished saying, among themselves,