

Making the Impossible Possible

E.T.S.: Luke 9:10-17 tells the account of the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 men.

E.S.S.: This passage demonstrates the reality that all things are possible with God.

Christ Follower: Give Jesus what you have without telling Him what is possible with it. Expect Him to make the impossible possible.

Christ Seeker: God made salvation, which is impossible to people in and of themselves, possible through Jesus Christ. Believe in Him to receive forgiveness and salvation.

Introduction

What do you think of when you hear the word *impossible* or *impossibility*?

Impossible means "incapable of being or occurring"

(<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/impossible>).

What do you see as incapable of being or occurring?

When you think about it, you may think of some sci-fi film, fictional plot from a story you have

heard, or out-there concept.

What about your own life? What seems impossible to you?

- that the broken or breaking relationship could be restored
- that you or your family could ever be financially stable
- that you would ever be more than what you believe yourself to be right now
- that you could ever make an investment that would yield a true, everlasting return
- that you could ever be used by God in a meaningful way

What happens when we think that something is impossible?

Usually nothing.

When you believe that something is impossible, you will not do anything to achieve it or reach for it. You will give up, move on, or not even attempt it.

One writer said it this way, "If you think that something is impossible, you'll never achieve it and your dreams won't come true" (<https://exploringyourmind.com/nothing-is-impossible/>).

So, if you want to stay where you are, if you are happy with the status quo of your life and ministry, then go on thinking that the way it is IS the way it is, nothing and no one can change it, and this is the way it always will be.

If, on the other hand, you want to move from where you are, if you are not happy with the status quo of your life and ministry, if you want to see the impossible become possible, then I

have something to share with you today:

GOD MAKES THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE!

Do you remember what the angel, who revealed Mary's pregnancy to her, said about God? The angel declared, "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (*King James Version*, 1769/2017, Luke 1:37). Notice, the angel said that to a young woman who conceived a child who had never had sexual relationships with anyone! To cause a virgin to become pregnant without any male involvement or medical intervention of any kind seems pretty impossible.

IMPOSSIBLE IS WHAT GOD DOES!

A well-known 20th century author wrote, "If Mary had the courage to take the impossible into her body, can we not have the courage to take it into our hearts?" (Madeline L'Engle). In other words, we see the example of God doing the impossible in Mary and it inspires us to believe Him to do the impossible.

The fiery preacher, Billy Sunday, put it simply, "We have a God who delights in impossibilities."

That He is a God who makes the impossible possible comes out in our text from Luke chapter nine today. Follow along as I read verses 10-17.

Bible

(10) And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. (11) And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received

them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing. (12) And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place. (13) But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people. (14) For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company. (15) And they did so, and made them all sit down. (16) Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude. (17) And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

Luke 9:10-17 - KJV

Explanation

After returning from the mission Jesus gave them to do, the disciples shared with Jesus what they had done. That is, they told Him what was accomplished through the power and authority He gave them (see Luke 9:1). Let us remember that everything we accomplish for Him, we accomplish through the power and authority He gives us.

Jesus suggested that the disciples accompany Him to a desert place because it is a deserted place. They were so busy with ministry that they did not even have time to eat (see Mark 6:31).

Jesus offered them rest.

Bible

(28) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29)

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30 - KJV

Explanation

Their rest was short-lived. The people knew where they were, where they were going, and traveled there to meet them.

Why didn't Jesus just send them away? After all, He wanted His disciples to rest.

Bible

(34) And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

Mark 6:34 - KJV

Explanation

For some time, Jesus taught them and healed those who needed healing (see Matthew 14:14).

As the day wore on into the evening, Jesus and the disciples concerned themselves with how

the people would get food to eat. There were at least 5,000 men present.

Jesus put the disciples to the test.

Bible

(5) When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? (6) And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

John 6:5-6 - KJV

Explanation

Think about this: they had just personally experienced what God could do through them when Jesus gave them power and authority. They went and preached, cured diseases, and cast out demons. They came back with story after story of all they had done with His power. Certainly, they would not struggle with any doubts now.

Yet, when He pressed them, they resorted to looking at and counting up their own resources.

Bible

(7) Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

John 6:7 - KJV

(13) But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but

five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

Luke 9:13 - KJV

Explanation

I can't understand it, until I remember and recognize how often I do the same thing.

How about you? Does that kind of living and thinking sound familiar?

Something we need to learn, or remember if we have learned it before, is that our resources in our hands will never be more than that or enough to do what God desires.

Notice how this comes out in the text.

Bible

*(13) But he said unto them, **Give ye them to eat.** And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.*

Luke 9:13 - KJV

Explanation

Did Jesus really expect them to start feeding the massive crowd? I don't think so.

Does Jesus intend or expect you and I to live life, serve Him, and serve others with our own resources? I don't think so.

Consider this:

What did the five loaves and two fish amount to in the hands of the boy who gave them or Andrew who brought them? Five loaves and two fishes. No more. No less.

What did the five loaves and two fish amount to in the hands of Jesus? An unimaginable abundance.

So, what did He expect of them? What does He expect of us? Bring Him your loaves and fish.

In your hands:

- it's not enough
- it can't make a difference
- it isn't sufficient
- it's measureable

In His hands:

- it's more than enough
- it makes a difference
- it's more than sufficient
- it can't be measured

Application

If you know Jesus Christ, give Him what you have without telling Him what is possible with it.

Expect Him to make the impossible possible.

If you have not believed in Jesus Christ, God made salvation, which is impossible to people in

and of themselves, possible through Jesus Christ. Believe in Him to receive forgiveness and salvation.