

## Daily Devotional, October 29, 2021 Jesus, Use Me

***When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" John 6:5-9 (NIV)***

One of the ways that we struggle most in our faith is in how we easily we doubt what God is capable of doing with and through us. This is partly due to our limited vision. Oftentimes we fail to see our gifts in the same way that God sees them. Our doubt convinces us into believing that we don't have what it takes to make a significant difference. It would seem that this is why John makes sure to include this amazing story of the mountainside feeding of the 5000 in his gospel.

What makes the feeding of the 5000 such an incredible story is that three people team up to make this miracle happen. This miracle is made possible through the efforts of Jesus, Peter, and a young boy who has five loaves of bread and two small fish.

As Jesus ministered to people around the sea of Galilee, word about His teachings and miracles spread. Large crowds came out to see Him and began to follow Him. They followed Him out into the wilderness, away from their towns and villages. At this point, the disciples began to worry about feeding such a large group of people. Here, Jesus took this opportunity to teach the disciples an important lesson. Jesus starts by asking Phillip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" Phillip, totally befuddled by Jesus' question, replied, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Now, Jesus knew that they did *not* have the money, but he knew there was a way.

Peter had pointed out to Jesus that there was a small boy with just a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. But for Jesus, that was enough. When you are the son of God, even what seems so meaningless can be substantial. Jesus had the people sit down. He gave thanks and passed the fish and the bread. As it turns out, what seemed to be so insignificant turned out to be so much. Everyone had more than enough to eat!

When we realize that God takes our offering, however large or small, and works good for those around us, we will see that we have so much to offer. I am sure the young boy who brought a little food with him did not realize that he would help to bring about one of the greatest miracles in the Bible. He simply offered what he had, and God did the rest. God is able to use whatever we have to give, to combine it with the offerings of others, large and small, and to use it to do amazing things in the lives of others, for the glory of God's kingdom.

We are capable of great things, not because of the quantity that we have to offer, but because of the desire of our hearts. Our God is working through us to do amazing things in this world and will continue to do so if we are willing to be used for God's glory and not our own.

***Prayer: Lord, thank you for the gifts you have given me, I pray that as I continue growing in my faith that I will always seek your heart and desire to serve you with the incredible gifts you have placed within me. Lord, help me see the ways I can use my gifts in whatever situation you place me in. I pray for a heart that is attentive to your leading. In Jesus' name, Amen.***