

It All Started With a Little Boy (Cont. from pg. 3) unities we have to use the gifts which God has given us? This young boy gave to Jesus what he had to meet the needs of others. We each have our own gifts and unique opportunities to let the Lord work through us (Romans 12:4-16). Sometimes it can be something as simple as sending a card, making a phone call, or taking time for a visit to encourage another. When we think of our shut-ins, do we remember that at one time it could be said, “they were there every time the doors of the church building were open,” and they were our Bible class teachers, deacons, elders, members who visited and took food when a need arose, members who contributed labor to the care of the church building, and prepared the communion? It is now because of age and physical infirmity that they can no longer assemble with us. Can Jesus work through you to remind them that their

service in His kingdom is valued and to encourage them as brothers and sisters in the Lord?

Are you sharing the greatest blessing of all that you have—are you sharing the Gospel with others? Can you invite someone to come for Bible study and worship on Sunday or Wednesday? Can you share the teaching of God’s Word with some soul today? In John 6, we read of the miracle of Jesus when He used five barley loaves and two small fish to feed five thousand men. But there is a greater hunger than that of the physical man—the spiritual hunger of the soul. Jesus declares to us, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (John 6:35). Always remember it’s the little things in life that can make a difference.

By Bill Davis

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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It All Started With a Little Boy

Have you ever noticed that as we go through life we may come upon a task that will seem impossible to do? And we found out that it was not impossible to accomplish.

Sometimes we are asked to go visit someone who is a shut-in or go teach the gospel to those we work with and try to lead them to know how to be saved. Or, perhaps we are asked to give a fifteen minute lesson on Wednesday night or asked to teach a Bible class. You know a lot of us have been asked to build or repair something, or just help do a task that we have no idea how to start or finish. Yet, when we are willing to try to help do that task, there have been those around us

We see a lot of these examples in the Bible where at times the task before the people seemed impossible to fulfill, but God always works everything out for good. In John 6, we see such an example when Jesus asked Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” Philip, like many of us today, answered out of the heart when he answered Jesus, “Eight months wages would not buy enough bread for each to have a bite.”

(Cont. on pg. 2)

It All Started With a Little Boy (Cont. from pg. 1) John 6:1-14 reads: “After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. 3 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. 4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. 5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. 7 Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.” 8 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?” 10 Then Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 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.” (NKJV)

In this crowd of people was young boy who had five small barley loaves and two small fish. “How far will this food go among so many?” Now when Jesus had asked Philip where they could buy enough bread to feed this large crowd of people Philip started to count the cost with regard to what it will take to buy enough food. When Jesus asked Philip this question Jesus wanted to teach him that the financial resources available are not the most important ones to look to. Philip, like many of us today, will limit what God will do with us by assuming what is and is not possible. As Christians today, like the disciples then, we should not let our estimate of what cannot be done keep us from taking on a task, God can and will do the rest; all we have to do is help provide the faith and the resources to get the job done.

In John 6, we see a comparison between the disciples and this young boy who gave what he had. The disciples certainly did have more of the resources than the boy did; they just could not see it at the time. The young boy gave what little food he had and this made all the difference in letting Jesus do the rest. For those of us today, if

we always tell ourselves that we have nothing to give or offer to God, He will have nothing to use on our behalf. Like the young boy we too can take what little we have and let God turn it into something grand.

Jesus, in performing these miracles will usually prefer to work through the people. Here Jesus took this young boy and used what food he had offered and used it to accomplish one of the spectacular miracles that we have recorded in the Gospels. Young or old, age is not a reason fail to serve and follow Jesus as we go through life. As Christians, we should all have the faith that this young boy had when he offered his meal to Jesus in order to let Jesus perform this miracle. It would seem this young boy had more faith than the disciples had and they were with Jesus every day.

How often today do we as Christians hesitate to follow Jesus when we think we are getting over our head in serving God? Do we first think of what it might cost us in Our Own Money, or do we think of the cost more in spiritual terms in which souls hang in the balance? Do we actually count the cost as to what it will cost us, or do we just step back and say it cannot be done? I like the story about this young boy with his food; we need to remember back in

those days food was hard to come by. This young boy could have told Jesus and his disciples to go to the lake and get your own fish and buy your own bread. He not only gave his food, but this young boy gave himself to allow Jesus to work through his gift.

When the disciples expressed their concern as to where the crowd of over five thousand would sit and eat, Jesus offered them a solution—you give them something to eat. The disciples had to take a step backward because they were focusing all their attention on what they did not have (food) instead of doing something about it. You see, God will never ask us today, like His disciples then, to do something what we cannot do or handle. We should not let our lack of faith or resources blind us in seeing God’s power at work in us today. Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” If we see what God would have us do through His Word and we seek to do it, we can have confidence that God will be with us and help us.

Have we given ourselves first to the Lord and His service? Are we waiting for a more convenient time? Or, are we waiting for an opportunity to do “great things” for the Lord? Do we underestimate the value of everyday opport- (Cont. on pg. 4)