

# MESSAGE

Occasion : Evening Worship / Morning Worship  
Date : August 4, 2002 / March 27, 2011 / October 6, 2016

TITLE : **WHAT ARE THEY AMONG SO MANY**  
Text/s :

John 6:1-14

- 1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.
- 2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.
- 3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.
- 4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.
- 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.
- 7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.
- 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,
- 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: **but what are they among so many?**
- 10 And Jesus said, **Make the men 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 to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.
- 12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.
- 13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.
- 14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Bible Reading :

Matt 14:13-21

- 13 When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.
- 14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.
- 15 And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; **send the multitude away**, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.
- 16 But Jesus said unto them, **They need not depart; give ye them to eat.**
- 17 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.
- 18 He said, **Bring them hither to me.**
- 19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, **he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.**
- 20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.
- 21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

Mark 6:32-44

- 32 And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.
- 33 And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him.
- 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.
- 35 And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed:
- 36 Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat.
- 37 He answered and said unto them, **Give ye them to eat.** And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?
- 38 He saith unto them, **How many loaves have ye? go and see.** And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes.
- 39 And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass.
- 40 And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.
- 41 And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, **he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them;** and the two fishes divided he among them all.
- 42 And they did all eat, and were filled.
- 43 And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes.
- 44 And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.

#### Luke 9:10-17

- 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.

#### 1 Cor 1:18-31

- 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
- 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.
- 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?
- 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.
- 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:
- 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

- 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.
- 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
- 26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:
- 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
- 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:
- 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.
- 30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
- 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Song/s :

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## INTRODUCTION

We see in this story a great crowd before the Lord. A hungry crowd. A crowd that is the subject of the ministry of the Lord.

Observe what the disciples did and what the Lord did,

- The disciples suggested that the Lord send the multitude away because of time and the need for food.
- He made the disciples feel their inadequacy. He asks Philip who commented that even 200 pennyworth of bread would not be sufficient. Andrew says of what they have, "What are they among so many?" If there would be anyone who would know where to buy bread in the area, it would be Philip because he came from Bethsaida, a town just 9 miles away. A poor man's wage in those days is a penny a day. 200 penny worth of bread then would be about 6 months salary of a poor man. Philip's principle is just like Thomas, "seeing is believing." He always asked for proof. When he met Nathaniel, he said to him, "Come and see..." In one instance, he told the Lord,

John 14:8-9

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

- He makes the disciples to bring their inadequacy to him. "Bring them hither to me," Matthew records.
- He makes the people sit. An idea of order. Ministry is in order.
- He distributes the food through the disciples. He gave the loaves to the disciples, the disciples to the multitude. Thus the Lord feeds the hungry by means of His beloved church. Let us all learn our high vocation and our solemn responsibilities.
- He takes His place at the head of the table in the wilderness.
- He showed that He was not wasteful. He commanded that the left-overs be gathered up
- It is said that it is possible that the lad was really a young man taken by the disciples to carry their food. He may probably be a lad who was brought with themselves, or who had attached himself to the twelve. What he had was barley bread (bread of the poorest class) and two fishes (usually dried, salted).

Before us is a big ministry. And compared to the greatness of the work, we are but a small thing. What happened here is a representation of how God can use us and what we have to minister to the subjects of the Lord's compassion and love. The multitude needed the ministry. They needed to hear and to be healed by the Lord. We have what the Lord can use for them to hear.

- A) We are but inadequate for the big ministry before us.** What we have even if pooled together would not be sufficient to sustain. But it is not that of pooling together that is the answer. The answer is let us give to the Lord our very inadequacy.
- 1) If we have anything that can be used for the ministry, it is not us that would use it but the Lord. He is the one that makes use of what we have. Our duty is to give the useful thing to Him. "Bring them hither to me..."
  - 2) If we have anything that can be used for the ministry, it is the Lord who will give the terms on how it is to be used. We have nothing to do with what we have once it is laid down in God's hands. The disciples did not even hold the Lord break the bread!
  - 3) In the ministry, it is the Lord Who provides, who feeds, who sustains and who gives satisfaction and filling up. The Lord does this and he uses even the very base of materials. The barley bread is the cheapest of bread. It is not even wheat.
- B) Even in the midst of inadequacy, our duty is not to cry because of our inadequacy but to obey.** "Make the men sit down." "What? We have suggested for you to send them away!" But at your word, we will obey.
- 1) The ministry continues through tough conditions;
  - 2) The ministry continues through our tiring moments;
  - 3) The ministry continues through times when we have not enough.
  - 4) The Lord wants us to be calm and in order even in the toughest moments. We should be imperturbable (unshakably calm and collected, controlled)
  - 5) The ministry is not founded on what we have but on our obedience to God. We need not be boastful that we have given all because our obedience.
- C) In the ministry, that which we have given to God, flows from God to us and to others.** That is his terms. That is His flow. He uses his church to deliver the goods without due regard to whoever gave the food.
- 1) That which is on us which He uses, it is even subject to obedience.
- D) In the ministry, we afford no waste.** "What is God's we do not waste them." We do not waste our talents after we have rendered them for use of God. We don't waste our time after we have given time for God. We don't waste our money, after we have given God his due.

Consider, if we have anything within us that can be used by God for the ministry, let us remember:

- It is He Who will make use of it
  - It is He Who will lay the terms how to use it
  - It is He Who will provide, feed and give satisfaction
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- He uses what we have but first we have to sit down and be in submission
  - He uses what we have but we have to show our unity
  - He uses what we have but we have to be obedient
  - He uses what we have but