

Give Ye Them To Eat

Mark 6:34-44

23 August 2024

Introduction: The Lord Jesus Christ has given us some things to do while on this earth. The devil works to keep us busy with nonessential things, distract us, or give us excuses not to serve. We need to exercise simple obedience to the Lord's commands and trust Him to work out the details. *What are you living for?*

- We want to do good things, but it's a struggle (Romans 7:18), as we battle the flesh, the world and the devil.

I. See As the Savior Sees (v. 34)

A. He Saw Them As Sheep Having No Shepherd

B. We Must Learn to See Through God's Eyes (2 Kings, 6:15-17, Jesus — John 4:35)

- *“LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.”* (Vs 17).
- *“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest”* (Jn 4:35)

II. Let God's Heart Move You (v. 34)

A. Christ Was Moved with Compassion (Matthew 9:36; 14:14)

B. Paul Was Stirred Because of Idolatry (Acts 17:16)

C. The House of Stephanus Was Addicted to the Ministry of the saints. (1 Corinthians 16:15)

- We need to pray, *“Lord, just keep my heart tender. Keep it broken before You.”*
- Realize that you can't do it, but remember that you can do all things through Christ Jesus (Phillipians 4:13).

III. Give Ye Them to Eat (v. 35-37) -- Take Personal Responsibility

- The people you help will often not appreciate your efforts. You need to remember that you are serving the Lord (Eph 6:7, Col 3:23). Keep serving the Lord no matter how people respond. Don't give up.

A. The Disciples Wanted to 'Send Them Away' (v. 35-36)

1. They saw the need — 'they have nothing to eat.'

2. But they felt inadequate to the task

3. The disciples themselves were pressed to their limits (v. 29-31)

B. But Jesus Commanded, 'Give Ye Them to Eat' (v. 37)

IV. How Many Loaves Have Ye? (v. 38) -- Take personal Inventory

A. Go and See (see Luke 14:28-30)

- Surrender to serve. Don't insist on knowing all the details first. The Lord will enable you.

B. And When They knew

- When you take personal inventory, be ready to give it all to the Lord.
 - Picture Moses casting his rod on the ground, total surrender to God's command (Exodus 4:3). Afterwards, God used that rod for many mighty works.

V. Sit Them Down by Companies (v. 39-40) -- Develop a Plan

A. They Began With What They Could Do (v. 39) *They could not feed the 5,000, but they could prepare them for the meal

- Figure out what you CAN do and start there. Once the Lord starts doing His part, you will be amazed

B. They Carefully Organized Their Work (v. 40, 1 Corinthians 14:40, 33)

VI. Distribute to the People (v. 41) -- Do the Work

A. Jesus Provided the Meal

1. He looked up to Heaven
2. He blessed the loaves
3. He broke the loaves
4. He gave to the disciples

B. The Disciples Gave to the People (1 Corinthians 15:58)

VII. Take Up the Fragments (v. 42-44) -- Finish the Job

A. All Did Eat and Were Filled (2 Corinthians 9:8)

B. They Took Up 12 Baskets of Fragments (one for each doubting disciple) *Finish the Work (Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:7)

CONCLUSION:

- Stop making excuses.
- Stop putting it off.
- Start where you are; do what you can do.
- If you wait for a “better time,” you are inviting a tragedy designed to get you to take God seriously.
- Serve the Lord because you love Him.

What will you do with your lunch? Will you give it to the Lord?