

**"Kingdom Supply" - Mark 6:34-44**  
**Sunday 12/2/18 - Jeff Lyle**

---

As Kingdom citizens, Christians receive far more than we could ever give. There really is no adequate way to measure the riches of grace, the gift of eternal life, the constant supply of love, mercy and compassion which come to us from the Father. We humbly acknowledge that it would be impossible for any of us to pay back a fraction of what we have received from Him. Yet the Lord clearly calls us into a lifestyle of release and sacrifice. Our motivation for living generous lives is not in order to pay back or pay off what God has given us in grace. We are called as children of a generous Father to live lives that reveal our gratitude to Him by entering into His purposes in our generation. We are to reveal His nature to a blind world by living in time in the same ways that He has existed in eternity. God releases His love, His compassion, His mercy and His provision through the open hands of His children. The Father transforms us from being takers to being givers. Kingdom living does not happen in the realm of theory. There is a heavenly call for us to be poured out intentionally into the lives of others for the glory of our King. If it has not cost us, it isn't real yet. This message reveals how Jesus will take obedience with that which may seem small to us and turn it into a Kingdom-revealing activity which meets practical needs and makes the love of the Father visible before our eyes and the eyes of those whom we bless.

**I. The Reality of Our Limited Resources (34-37)**

**A. A draw on our love (34) - "When He went ashore He saw a great crowd, and He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And He began to teach them many things."**

In the midst of non-stop demand on Him, it is beautiful for us to read here that the heart of Jesus remained tender towards the people. He let His eyes soak in the growing numbers of people, each of whom wanted something from Him. Instead of resenting the stream of never-ending need, compassion for their situations arose in the King's heart. They had nobody to guide them. Nobody was protecting them. Nobody was protecting them. Not wasting a divine opportunity, He began to pour His life-giving words into them. We should take note that His heart was invested. He was not releasing some token sermon about the Kingdom to them. Jesus actually felt for each of them and created a moment born of compassion that would soon lead to a miracle that would touch every single person in the crowd that day - a crowd which numbered into the thousands.

**"Kingdom Supply" - Mark 6:34-44**  
**Sunday 12/2/18 - Jeff Lyle**

---

**B. A draw on our time (35) - "And when it grew late, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late."**

The disciples are like so many of us. The long day of ministry reached into the evening. The tired followers of Jesus had been watching the clock and approached Jesus to see if they could get Him to agree to call it a day. Seeing the sun beginning to dip in the sky and recognizing that the normal hour for the people to eat was approaching, the disciples pragmatically thought it best to dismiss the crowd back to their homes so they could each take care of their own physical needs. Perhaps, the twelve were also motivated by compassion that the people have their needs met. The difference is that they assumed that they had no means to meet those needs themselves. Jesus was about to teach His closest followers a deep lesson on how Kingdom supply functions.

**C. A draw on our servanthood (36) - "Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."**

The disciples had been working hard and wanted the people to be sent away to provide for their needs. The phrase "send them away" is a statement that many of us have felt when we have labored long in serving others. We become tired. We reach the end of our strengths. We run out of resources. The need looms much larger than our perceived ability to meet it. What might be the solution? Create a little space to breathe! We desire some space. When our servant-heart reaches the end of its natural resources, we prefer that the draw on our energy and time be removed. We can hardly fault the disciples here. Who among us has not had moments when we simply wanted someone else to step up and meet the need that stood before us. These men had spent a long day serving alongside of Jesus and they simply wanted the crowd to go and eat so that the long hours of ministry could come to a close for that day.

**D. A draw on our money (37) - "But He answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?"**

Jesus had allowed the scene to come to a crossroads. The disciples were out of energy. The disciples felt like they had no more time to offer. It may have been true that the disciples were also running out of patience and, dare I say it, compassion. It is at

**"Kingdom Supply" - Mark 6:34-44**  
**Sunday 12/2/18 - Jeff Lyle**

---

this moment where Jesus presents to them what likely sounded like an unreasonable command. Jesus tells His men not to send the massive crowd away but, instead, to take upon themselves the task of feeding them right where they were. The collective answer from the twelve was that they clearly had no money to be able to fund what Jesus was calling them to do. Their first instinct was to check the budget to see how the feeding of the throng might be accomplished. A quick survey of the demand compared to the supply allowed them to confidently answer their Master with a statement of, "There simply is not enough, Jesus." If we can unpack their answer a bit, they were telling the King that they were unable to obey His command because the financial numbers did not allow for it. How many followers of Jesus have given that same answer over the centuries? Too many to begin to count! When it comes to financial stewardship, many Christians look at the lives they have desired and pursued and established, then they conclude that there is no way to live obediently to the command to invest a portion of their resources into the work that Jesus desires to accomplish. Many of these same Christians view the King's mandate to invest their finances into the Kingdom as an option or suggestion. The end result for these believers is that they live in some level of faithless disobedience in the realm of God's authority over their finances. For most it is a trust issue. For others it is the age-old wonder of how their comparatively small release of finances can make a difference in the massive needs within the Kingdom. Jesus is about to teach His followers what can happen when the little that we have in our power is released unto Him.

## **II. The Process of Releasing into the Kingdom (38-41)**

### **A. Know clearly what you have available (38) - "And He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish."**

I am impacted by the process that Jesus begins to implement with His twelve closest followers whom He has called to help lead in the Kingdom. His first response to their declaration that there was insufficient supply to meet His command was to tell them to calculate what they had available. This is so practical that it may not seem spiritual to some. In effect, Jesus asks them to assess all the available income. Whereas the disciples were operating in the currency of available food, the principle is still clear. The issue was the need to discern exactly what resources were available to be

**"Kingdom Supply" - Mark 6:34-44**  
**Sunday 12/2/18 - Jeff Lyle**

---

used. The disciples came back quickly with the answer that there five small loaves of bread and two fish. They had obeyed step number one: discern accurately what you have.

**B. Listen for what Jesus requires of you (39-40) - "Then He commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. So, they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties."**

Next, Jesus gives them a very simple command to prepare for the context of what He is about to do. He places them all in the position of submission. He alone would be in charge of what was about to happen, but He required organization through which to facilitate his plan. The people were divided into manageable groups of fifty people (Luke 9:14). Based on the totals given later, that would have been over one hundred separate groups of people that needed feeding. Jesus was taking what would have visually appeared to be chaotic and disorganized and made it into a manageable situation. Order is an asset in the Kingdom. Organization is not in opposition to moves of God. We must wisely steward what God is entrusting to us, so Jesus took a disorganized scene and made it available to be managed by Him. He did not tell them why. He tested their obedience and trust of Him in a plan that was not in their full control. Obeying basic commands in the Kingdom places us in the proper position to receive Kingdom supply.

**C. Release in confidence all that He requires (41) - "And taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And He divided the two fish among them all."**

Without hesitation, Jesus took the fish and bread which had been brought to Him by the disciples and gave thanks to the Father for it. He took time to be intentionally grateful for the very limited supply that had been entrusted to Him. Most of us would have looked at the tiny offering and been discouraged, but not Jesus. Jesus is grateful for anything that is given to Him to bless. The little boy who had shown up with that lunch on that day had willingly surrendered it to the disciples. Perhaps his childlike confidence in the ability of Jesus to do something awesome with it was stronger than the disciples. Maybe the boy was just thrilled with being able to give something to the Lord. We are not certain of what was happening in the boy's heart, but it is very clear that his comparatively small offering became the means through which Jesus did something astounding. The Scriptures clearly state that, from the two fish and

**"Kingdom Supply" - Mark 6:34-44**  
**Sunday 12/2/18 - Jeff Lyle**

---

five loaves, Jesus fed thousands of people. Let this serve to remind all of us that, no matter how little we might think we have, when we release it in trust to Jesus, He blesses it. He does exceedingly, abundantly above anything we can imagine. When we are faithful to release, He is faithful expand what we release and meet the opportunities in the Kingdom that are before us. Whether it is the boy with his lunch or the widow with her last penny, Jesus blesses and rewards the trusting surrender of our resources to Him. He feeds the masses with our sacrifices.

**III. The Results of Kingdom Supply (42-45)**

**A. Sufficiency and contentment (42) - "And they all ate and were satisfied."**

The need was met, and every single person found physical satisfaction in the meal which Jesus miraculously provided. The disciples had initially wanted to send the crowds away that day. They had no natural means to meet the need of the moment. Jesus facilitated an impossible situation to test and purify their trust of Him. He intentionally backed them into a corner when He commanded them to feed the thousands of people. As they cooperated with the process He initiated, they became witnesses to a miracle feeding. The end result was that all of the need was entirely met. Jesus had taken what had been offered and multiplied it far beyond its measurable natural value. He will still do that today when His followers will respond as the disciples did. We trust what He says about our resources. He discerns what is required for us to give. We release it in obedience. Jesus blesses it and meets the needs and opportunities within His Kingdom. We get to partner with the King as He provides for everything that He designs to do in each generation.

**B. Overflow of abundance for others (43) - "And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish."**

They went from anxious lack to overflowing abundance in a single day. Jesus still does this today. Not only was there enough to meet the need of the hour, there was plenty left over to meet needs that had not yet manifested. Needs in the kingdom are constant. When Christians live in faithful obedience to the call to lay aside the firstfruits of our resources and prioritize them for Kingdom

**"Kingdom Supply" - Mark 6:34-44**  
**Sunday 12/2/18 - Jeff Lyle**

---

purposes, there will always be enough. If we would collectively gain wisdom in the church about how God finances Kingdom endeavors, we would move away from clutching our dollars or squandering large portions of our income on things that have no eternal value. We would be able to cultivate an ongoing enthusiasm for investing in things, people and activities that yield eternal fruit. God delights to do above and beyond what we may envision. There are "twelve baskets full" awaiting us if we will live in a constant commitment to release into the Kingdom.

**C. Divine purposes fully accomplished (44-45) - "And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men. Immediately He made his disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd."**

Very simply, Jesus and His followers move on from that day of opportunity and need and begin journeying to the next. What amazing lessons had been taught by the king that day. He defied the natural order of things by bringing about a supernatural order. Kingdom math was implemented wherein a boy's sack lunch was more than enough to feed over five-thousand people. Faithlessness counts, recounts, sweats, worries...and refuses to release. Trust counts, listens, believes and lets resources move into the process that God has ordained. Whether it is our love, our time, our servanthood or our money, whatever we will place in the hands of the King, He will abundantly bless.