

*How God Provide our Needs  
Part 4*

*“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.” (John 6:1-13)*

*“1 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Festival was near. 5 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?” 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, 9 “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” 10 Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. 12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.” (John 6:1-13 NIV)*

In the above passage that we read in John we can see and witness the wonderful miracles that Jesus did by providing food for a crowd of people *in number about five thousand*. The people followed the Lord because of the miracles *which he did on them that were diseased*. Peoples and crowd of people will continue to come to the Lord because of certain needs in their lives, like sicknesses, problems that need miracles and for the provision of food and other needs.

The Lord was with His disciples when the crowd came seeking for Him. The Lord with His disciples and the disciples with the Lord: the Lord work with His disciples and the disciples work with the Lord. Therefore when the crowd comes to the Lord they will meet the disciples and when they come to the disciples then they are meeting the Lord. From this arrangement

then you must understand that if you are disciples then you must behave and act as a disciple. Jesus will not treat you or consider you as He consider and treat the crowd.

The crowd who came to Jesus they don't have faith, they don't have food and they lack lot of other things like healing, salvation, personal relationship with God. They don't know the word of God and they don't aware about prayer and they don't know how to hear the voice of Jesus. But the disciples are opposite to the crowd; they have faith, personal relationship with God through Christ, they know the word of God and the promises of God. They have the gift of prayer, they are trained by God and they have long experience with the Lord.

Then with that description the Lord would expect from them to be a help, a support and workers with Him to help him in dealing with the new coming crowds. The Lord would expect from the disciples the following:-

- 1- **Faith in Christ to do miracles:** People and crowds ultimately would be directed to Christ and we need to have faith in Christ that He will do something to reveal Himself to be in the mid of His disciples.
- 2- **Concern and affection to the coming crowd:** People and crowds had many needs and concerns, but the disciples should be having the concern to help the crowd in meeting their needs.
- 3- **Responsible and accountable to their calling and ministry:** God would expect from His disciples to be people of accountability. The crowd of people that came toward Jesus was good challenge to the disciples, where their accountability toward the ministry would be tested. Jesus tested His disciples with this question, *“Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”* The disciples answered Him in a way showed that they are not responding to what God called them to do. *“7 Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, 9 “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”* Both these answers showed that the disciples are reluctant to be responsible in what they are called to do.
- 4- **Trusting God and putting what they have in the hand of God:** *8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, 9 “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”* The five loaves of the bread and the two fish were not enough from the disciples' point of view, but they did not consider when they will be put it in the hand of Jesus miracles will happen, needs will be met and people get enough. Many disciples they will not trust God that the small job and the small income that they have will be enough to sustain them and to sustain their ministry that God entrusted to them.
- 5- **Attentive to His voice and obedient in applying His instructions:** In the passage that we read from the book of John, Jesus spoke three statement to His disciples, His disciples responded to the Lord's instructions and truly Jesus did a marvelous miracle and met the need of a big crowd. The three statements that Jesus spoke can expound further to us how Jesus meet the needs of the crowd and how he enable us to continue to serve Him.

A- **Jesus Address the problem:** *“Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”* In that particular situation

Jesus point out to His disciples what is needed to be addressed at that moment. As disciples of Jesus you cannot plan your own plan and go ahead doing your own wish and will. Remember your life, your time and your resources are all God's and not yours. Therefore you need to be attentive of what Jesus wants to direct you to do in the next stage of your life. The disciples at that moment of their life and ministry with Jesus were directed to be responsible to help the coming crowd and supply their needs.

- B- Jesus gave instruction in the process of solving the problem: *Make the men sit down "Have the people sit down."*** Jesus what He instructed His disciples to do is just to let the people sit down and He did the rest. The disciples were bewildered when Christ put forward that the crowd needs for food should be met. Sure their mind was squeezed with different kind of solutions, but finally Jesus requested them to do a simple thing and He did the rest to meet the need. When you are addressed to face certain problem, you need to be attentive to the voice of Jesus to hear from Him of what you need to do. Jesus just told them, ***"Make the men sit down" "Have the people sit down."*** Jesus did not say 'go and buy,' He did not say 'cook,' He did not say 'send the crowd away.' The point that you need to understand, to solve any problem, you need to hear exactly what He says to you, and to do it.
- C- Jesus gave instruction to prevent the problem from coming back: *"Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."*** Jesus did not want His disciples to waste, and He wants them to be a good example to others around them. If the disciple had nothing left in their hand then they are worse than the non believers. Many disciples they waste and had not use their mind to save and use wisely what God is giving to them and make themselves ready to the next crowd. The disciples of Jesus were baffled with the big crowd that they face. Jesus here instructed them to gather the extra and keep it aside so that when they are faced again with crowd they have something to share. Stewardship in all what God give to you is a prophylaxis to avoid putting again yourself in problem, and preparation for you to be ready to serve the Lord and meet the need of the crowd.

***My dear and beloved: 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. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.*** Jesus when He took the loaves of the bread and the fish He gave thanks to God, then He gave to the disciples who give to the crowd around them. Are you a thankful disciple to the few effective measures and gifts that God had placed in your hand to serve Him? Are you a disciple who really attentive to hear the voice of Jesus in every day of your life and in every situation you face? Are you a channel of blessing that God would use that His grace, love and mercy will reach the crowd that is around you? Are you facing a problem today and you don't know how to handle it? Have you set your heart to live in order to serve Him? Have you differentiate yourself from the crowd? Go again through the message, meditate on it, confess your sins and repent from them, commit yourself to the principle that you read in the message and to live for Him to serve Him as you agree to pray.

***My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that shows me the truth; that I need to be a responsible and an accountable disciple who will live with you to serve you, and to let your grac, love and mercy reach others. Lord I confess my sins \_\_\_\_\_ and repent of them. Lord I kneel down at your feet to hear your voice and put things according to your instructions \_\_\_\_\_. Lord I commit myself to live to serve you. Lord gives me the strength and the good health to do that. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.***

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# Jesus christ



## The Bread Of Life

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