

## Daily Devotional, December 8, 2020

### “Five Barley Loaves and Two Small Fish”, (John 6:9, NKJV)

*“There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many.” (John 6:9)*

Jesus was testing the faith of His disciples. “He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do” (John 6:5-6). Philip and the disciples responded by soliciting for donations for a meal. Perhaps enough people had brought food into the wilderness and would be willing to share it, and perhaps there would be enough to feed the five thousand men as well as the women and children (Matthew 14:21). But the only one willing to step up was a young lad who had “five barley loaves and two small fish.” He didn’t have much, but he offered to the Lord what he had. And Jesus multiplied his offering enough to feed thousands.

Let us learn the following applications:

1. Children are often more generous and helpful than adults. Many of them have yet to learn to hoard their possessions.
2. Man’s extremity is God’s opportunity. In this instance, Jesus was glorified mightily by performing this miracle. It was humanly impossible. “With God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).
3. We can be sure God will provide our most basic needs. How He chooses to do it is often not the way we would expect. *Isaiah 55:8-9.*

Now let us each ask ourselves:

1. Do I have a generous spirit? Or do I sometimes overthink whether or not I should use my time, treasure, or talent for the Lord’s work or to meet the basic needs of others?
2. Do I tend to give up when a situation seems hopeless, or do I pray for the Lord to work in that situation? Do I really believe that God can do anything?
3. Am I willing to think outside the box? Or do I expect God’s methodology to be the same as my own, thereby putting God in the box?

What life situation will you apply this devotional to today?