

Miracles, Big and Small

In Mark 6:35-44, we are told about the feeding of the multitude with five loaves and two fish. The people had followed Jesus until it was time for the evening meal. The disciples were getting tired and hungry too. So they say to Christ, "Send the the crowd away, somewhere, ANYWHERE, to get something to eat." Now I am afraid that sounds like something I would say. It is perfectly obvious that there is no food here. They are hungry. I am hungry. Let them take care of themselves and I will take care of me. Selfish! Self Centered!! Human!!! But, as so often happens, Jesus turns the disciples' world up side down by telling them "YOU give them something to eat." The disciples, of course, protest the impossibility of the task. All they have is 5 loves and 2 fish to feed 5,000 hungry people. But they follow the Lord's instructions and "all are fed and are satisfied."

Now there are lots of views about this miracle. Some suggest that each person got only a small bit of bread, like a bit of communion bread. Others speculate that the people had food tucked in the folds under their robes, and, when Christ and the disciples shared all they had, the people did likewise. Obviously most believe that Christ created enough bread and fish to feed the multitude abundantly. Frankly, HOW Christ worked the miracle is not important to me. What is important is to see that a miracle DID occur. And it is important to me that this miracle was worked THROUGH the disciples. Then, as now, Christ often used those who follow Him to work His miracles. In fact, there is no indication that the disciples had any idea that they were working a miracle. In doing simple, day to day, work and following Christ, a miracle happened.

Similarly, today, we often do not know what miracles we are working in our daily lives, merely by being who God created us to be and by doing what Christ commands us to do. Businessman. Mother. Housewife. Father. Salesperson. Son. Student. Daughter. Christ works miracles through us every day. But of all this story, the part that I find MOST fascinating is the response of the multitude after their feeding. There was none! No thank you. No polite round of applause. Not even the smallest expression of appreciation. Its not that they didn't care. A miracle had been worked and they did not even know it! Likewise, too often I am hungry, hungry for God's word, for God to feed me. And I am fed. But I do not see the miracle of my being fed.

I fear we do not see the miracle of our feeding. God works miracles, big and small, in our lives, but we do not see them. A sick loved one is healed after we pray, and we thank the doctor, not Jesus. We are

afraid and pray, and peace comes, and all we do is go to sleep. Christ raised Lazarus from the dead, and many that were there must have told themselves "Lazarus must not have been dead after all," or some similar explanation. If this is not the case, would not ALL have seen and believed? Miracles must be seen through the eyes of faith. Like at least most of the multitude, we too often see miracles through practical eyes and do not recognize them.

The story of the feeding of the 5,000 is much more than a piece of ancient history. As is all the Bible, it is the story of you and me, of your life and my life. I am part of the multitude, hungry to be fed by Jesus, but not appreciating the miracle of His feeding. And so, too often, are you!

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