

March 26, 2023

It is Enough

Dear Sisters and Elders,

Following the beheading of John the Baptist, Jesus left Bethsaida and sought for solitude where he could mourn John's death. Matthew 14:13 says, *"When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard therefore, they followed him on foot out of the cities."* The people had witnessed the miracles Jesus performed on *"those that were diseased"* and the multitude appears to have followed him into the desert seeking more healings. Even though Jesus wanted some solitude, he immediately turned outward as he saw this multitude of people. Though he must have been hurting from the news of John's death, verse 14 in that says he *"...was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick."* We don't really know the time he left Bethsaida or the time the multitude showed up, but we do know he must have spent several hours with them, healing their sick one at time. In verse 15, we learn that it was already evening when His disciples expressed concern about the lateness of the hour. They knew that unless the people were sent away soon, they would not be able to buy food in the surrounding villages before nightfall.

Jesus however, was not concerned. In verse 16 he says to his disciples, *"they need not depart"* and told the disciples to give them food. The disciples however were confused, they replied *"We have here but five loaves, and two fishes."* In the gospel of John, we learn that it was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother that told Jesus, *"There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?"* It was then that the Savior said, *"Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So, the men sat down, in number about five thousand."* (John 6:8-10).

"Jesus then 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." (verse 11). *"And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children."* (Matthew 14:21). After the multitude had all eaten and were filled, they gathered up 12 baskets of remnants of the barley loaves. More bread than they had started with!

If there were 5000 men and you included the women and children, surely the number would have exceeded 10,000! And all of them were fed with 5 barley loaves of bread and 2 small fishes.

Why the lad had the loaves and fishes, we don't really know. It is obvious that he readily gave what little food he had to the disciples and ultimately to Jesus. The boy must have stood in awe to think they wanted his 5 loaves and 2 fishes to feed the thousands of people, and yet he seems to have given it freely. And here is the lesson, **the 5 loaves and 2 fishes were enough!** The lad gave everything he had to the Savior, and it was enough for the Savior to work a miracle for over 10,000 people! Sometimes, we all feel like we are not good enough. What could we

possibly offer the Savior that others could not give more? There are so many others that are more talented, more intelligent, stronger, prettier, more spiritual, more committed, better teachers, speak better English, know the doctrines and the scriptures better and on and on. It is true that there will always be others who have more to give than we ourselves, and yet, the Savior only asks for that which we have, and then like the loaves and fishes from the lad, turns it into something much greater than we could ever imagine!

We have other evidences of this principle, especially in the lives of prophets who never felt fully capable of the call they received. The Lord took what they had to offer (because they gave everything they had) and turned their offering into more than they could have ever dreamed possible.

MOSES: Exodus 4:10 – *“And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.”*

ENOCH: Moses 6:31 – *“And when Enoch had heard these words, he bowed himself to the earth, before the Lord, and spake before the Lord, saying: Why is it that I have found favor in thy sight, and am but a lad, and all the people hate me; for I am slow of speech; wherefore am I thy servant?”*

NEPHI: 2 Nephi 4:27 – *“And why should I yield to sin, because of my flesh? Yea, why should I give way to temptations, that the evil one have place in my heart to destroy my peace and afflict my soul? Why am I angry because of mine enemy?”*

JOSEPH SMITH: JS History 1:29 – *“I often felt condemned for my weakness and imperfections; when, on the evening of the above-mentioned twenty-first of September, after I had retired to my bed for the night, I betook myself to prayer and supplication to Almighty God for forgiveness of all my sins and follies, and also for a manifestation to me, that I might know of my state and standing before him; for I had full confidence in obtaining a divine manifestation, as I previously had one.”*

And so, it is with us. If we are willing to give the Lord everything we have, regardless of how small it seems, he will magnify it more than a thousand-fold. And our tiny offering will be enough for the Lord to work the miracles He needs to work. We will always be enough when we allow our Savior and Redeemer to magnify our meager offering to bless the lives of His children. May we freely give our all so we might hear the Spirit whisper, **"It is Enough."**

All my love,

President Kunz