



Doing the Impossible with the Insufficient

By Jeff Bedwell on September 21, 2021

TODAY'S READING: John 6

What is your first response when faced with overwhelming circumstances? Do you tend to calculate a purely human solution, or do you look to God's supply of wisdom and resources? This was the situation facing the disciples when Jesus tested them with the feeding of the 5,000.

We cannot be sure why Jesus chose Philip out of all the disciples when he asked him the question about buying bread (vs. 5). He did not really expect to buy bread. In fact, Jesus knew that Philip could not possibly answer his question. There was no village and no store nearby, and they had very little money. His question was clearly designed to set before Philip a situation that had no human solution.

Has that ever happened to you? Perhaps right now you are in that kind of a state—You are faced with a set of circumstances for which you can find no answer in the normal resources of human life. That is what Jesus did with Philip.

Philip concluded that there was not enough, there was nothing that could be done. Our Lord, however, says to begin where you are, with what you have. Andrew found a young boy who had a small amount of food with him. Not nearly enough for so many, but little is much when we place it in the Lord's hands.

Jesus commanded them to have everyone sit down in preparation for a meal. Jesus took what was insufficient, thanked God for it, and provided more than enough. In fact, the fish and the bread were multiplied by the Lord in such abundance that not only was everyone fed, but there were plenty of leftovers.

Do not let your lack of resources—your “insufficiency”—limit what God wants to do in and through your life! Start where you are, with what you have, give thanks to God for what you have, and offer it to Him even if it seems woefully insufficient to meet the needs of the moment. God delights in working in and through those who trust Him to do the impossible with the insufficient!

What impossible thing might God want to do in and through your life? Will you give thanks for your “insufficiency,” offer it to God to use as He sees fit, and trust Him with the timing and the results?

PRAYER: God, forgive me for I am so often just like Phillip! Help me to start where I am, with what I have, entrusting it all to You as I obey your commands.

TOMORROW'S READING: John 7

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