

- **Sunday 30th April 2023.**
- **Partnering in the Mission Part 2**
- **‘There is more.’**
- **John 6:1-13 NIV**

Introduction

In this short story from Mark 12:41-44, a poor widow came along and put in two small coins. Then Jesus tells the disciples that the woman gave more than the rich. Sometimes I don't understand the mathematics of Christ.

The poor woman, as a widow, would have had no source for income after her husband's death. Therefore, the two small coins were all she had and yet she offered them to God. Church, there's more in giving than just money. Even though it's good to give it, money in itself does not give us eternal life.

Before we look at the Gospel of John chapter 6, I would like us to reflect briefly on John chapter 5. Jesus addressing the religious groups, He presented four witnesses to the reality that he was who he said that he was, **1) John the Baptist** witnessed about Him, (5:33-35), **2) The very works** that he did' bear witness of Him" (5:36),

The Father Himself, who sent Him (5:37), **3)**
Scriptures *“You study the Scriptures diligently
because you think that in them you have eternal
life. These are the very Scriptures that testify
about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have
life.” (John 5:39-40).* In other words, **there’s
more** than studying scriptures of the Bible or
attending church services.

John 6: Sometime 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.

Even with five small barley loaves and two small fish for five thousand people, there is more for all to eat and to carry twelve baskets away to be used later. In John chapter 4, the Samaritan woman at the well thought that she had faced enough, her heart had been broken five times, but Jesus comes along and tells her that there's more to life than giving up.

Among the many miracles that Jesus performed, John records only seven of those miracles. 1) The turning of water into wine at a marriage feast in Cana.

2) The healing of a nobleman's son who was at the point of death;

3) The healing of a man at the sheep-gate pool.

4) Walking on water.

5) The feeding of five thousand.

6) The healing of the man born blind; and

7) The raising of Lazarus

John 6:1–15 describes the story Jesus' feeding five thousand people. This miracle is among these seven miracles John recorded in his gospel. This is the only miracle recorded in all four of the gospel accounts. When the crowd complains of hunger, the disciples who are mentioned each react in unique ways.

1) There's more when we see what Jesus Himself is seeing and doing.

Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? (Amos 3:3) many married couples use this verse.

a) Jesus was inviting His disciples to see what he was seeing-hungry and tired people.

Verse 5B: "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" Jesus asked.

b) Jesus was seeing people who were spiritually hungry, For John, the amount of physical food that came into existence was not of primary importance. Instead, the important meaning of the story is the spiritual food that alone can sustain the quality of living that characterizes true followers of Jesus.

c) His disciple could only see people who were physically hungry. Philip said; *“It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”*

If we must work together with Christ on his mission, we must see what he is seeing.

d) Christ is inviting us to a place where we can see what he is seeing and doing.

I do believe that if we can see what Christ is seeing, joining Him on this mission will not be hard.

e) Matthew 14:15b and Mark 6:35 records that the disciples requested Jesus to send the crowd away so that they can buy their own food.

2) There's more if your source of bread is Jesus himself. 6 verse 35 Jesus declared that "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

The things that break our lives and destroy our spiritual journey are temporary.

- The Samaritan woman at the well discovered that, She found out, ‘there was more’ when she found Jesus.
- She invited her whole family and community to experience this new life. Jesus reminded her that if they walk together, she will never thirst again.

At the end of the ceremony, they gathered and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Christ wants us to see him as our source. There are many things that offer us meaning and purpose in life, but if our source and purpose is not Christ, they will not last

Conclusion:

I will finish with the story in Mark 2, where Jesus had just completed his tour of the synagogues and had returned to Capernaum. The news that Jesus was in town, staying at a certain house, spread so quickly through the city. The crowd hurriedly came, and soon the house was jammed full of people waiting to hear from Jesus. Among those people were four men bringing their physically hand-capped friend on a stretcher.

The interesting part is that when Jesus said to this man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” People were shocked because they were looking for healing. Jesus asked, *verse 9*, Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? there is more to miracles and more other things we bring to Jesus.

Resources are never enough, but God has limitless resources, enough for us to do what God wants to be done. Let us allow ourselves to live in the eyes of faith through Jesus Christ. Maybe today you walked in here feeling that you've lost everything..