



## HOW TO PREPARE FOR A MIRACLE

### Building Up – Reaching Out October 18, 2009

**Mark 6.34-44**  
(Miracle: Jesus Feeds the 5000)

### 1. ADMIT I HAVE A NEED

"When Jesus . . . saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them. . . so he began teaching them. By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him and said, 'This is a remote place. Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and buy themselves something to eat.' But Jesus answered, 'You give them something to eat!' They said to him, 'That would take eight months of a man's wages.'" (Mark 6.34-37)

What we usually do:

- We procrastinate - "By this time it was late in the day."
- We pass the buck - "Send the people away."
- We worry - "It would take 8 months of wages."

*Principle # 1: God won't help you until you admit you need help.*

### 2. ASSESS WHAT I HAVE TO WORK WITH

"'How many loaves do you have,' Jesus asked. 'Go and see.' When they found out, they said, 'Five loaves of bread and two fish.'" (verse 38)

"Jesus asked this only to test them, for he already had in mind what he was going to do." (John 6.6)

*Principle # 2: God always starts with what I have when he wants to work a miracle.*

### 3. GIVE GOD WHAT I HAVE

"Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish. . . He blessed the

*food and broke the loaves and He kept giving them to the disciples to set before the people. . ."* (Verse 41 )

*Principle # 3: God will use whatever I give Him.*

### 4. EXPECT GOD TO MULTIPLY IT

"Everyone ate and had enough. Afterwards they collected twelve baskets full of . . . leftovers." (Verses 42-43)

*Principle # 4: Whenever I give, I always end up getting more back.*

"All things are possible with God." (Mark 10.27)

*"There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under  
heaven. . . There is a time to build."  
(Ecclesiastes 3.1 and 3)*

### HOW CAN I BE A PART ?

1. Begin to "prayerfully consider" what God would have you do.
2. Attend the Congregation-wide Retreat on Saturday, November 7. (Worship, Food, Comedy, Magic, . . . And information about **Building Up-Reaching Out!**)
3. Plan to attend Commitment Sunday – November 15
4. Be sure to attend "First Fruits Sunday" – December 6

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### Questions for personal devotions and Small groups

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1. After a busy day, how do you like to unwind? For what occasion would you have an open house party with a big spread?
2. How did the disciples and Jesus differ in the way they saw the problem? How would you have felt about this intusion?
3. What emotions might have been expressed by the disciples

in verse 37?

4. What would you feel as a disciple when you gathered the leftovers?  
What was the purpose in doing so?
5. What does this story imply about Jesus' identity? Mission?
6. How has Jesus fed you when you have been spiritually hungry lately?
7. When you sense that hunger, do you come searching for Him, or do you usually try to "fill up" on something else first?  
If so, what? Why?