

A Boy with Two Fish

“Unknown by Name”



“Philip answered, ‘Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece.’

One of the disciples—it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter—said, ‘There's a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this.’”

John 6:7-9

There are many people in the Bible that we only know by their actions – no name is needed – we get the message. We know the woman at the well, the Good Samaritan, the thief on the cross, and the list goes on. They were as we would say today “nobodies”. Why did their story get put into the Scriptures?

Today we know that Jesus took a small gift from a young boy who was willing to share all that he had and multiplied it to feed five thousand people. Was there only the miracle of the food being

multiplied or were there other miracles at the same time. One disciple had enough faith to tell Christ about the small gift from the young boy.

But it wasn't just any young boy. It was a boy with faith and a big heart. The miracle was also that the boy's heart was moved to give what he had – a small gift as it may be – to help feed the five thousand. Today, we might scoff at him and say “How did he ever think that was going to help?” But Andrew, one of the disciples, had faith that Christ could use even that small gift and at the risk of looking stupid, he offered the boy's gift to Christ. The other disciples must have thought he wasn't thinking straight. He had too much sun, or hadn't had enough sleep the night before. But he had faith that Christ could use even a small gift. That must have been a wonderful thing to see. It would have been a wonderful time to have been there, with no food, and know that the Christ was able to use that small gift to feed all the people who had been sitting there listening and expecting something, but had not even thought to take a lunch with them, or maybe they had a lunch hidden and were unwilling to share. We don't know that, but we do know that one small boy made a difference that will always be remembered.

The same is true today. We all know of people that had taken small gifts and made them into wonderful organizations to help feed the poor today, to help in the fight against diseases, to sell lemonade by the side of the road and end

up helping millions. We have people who give a little food to a shelter for the homeless and help others they don't even know, or give a coat to a needy individual.

“Love is like the five loaves and two fishes. It doesn't start to multiply until you give it away”

When my husband was a teenager he was living with a single parent and they were poor. He didn't realize he was poor because he had great love from his mother, but by financial measurements, he was poor. He went to a local church where the teenagers were allowed to take up the offering, but they had to wear a suit coat. He didn't have a suit coat. One day after church a lady approached him and said “I have some clothes up in my attic that my boys have outgrown and I hate to throw them away. Do you think you could wear any of them?” He didn't realize she was having pity for him. He was thrilled and left her home that day with several suit coats and a wonderful wool coat that he could never have afforded. Long after we were married, he sent money to that church to help say “Thank You” to a church because one lady cared and reached out to a young man without a suit coat so he could take up the offering. She didn't do it out of pity and it took him some time to realize what she was doing.

There are two wonderful Christmas songs that tell this same story in a different way. One is called “Little Drummer Boy.”

The words tell of a small boy who was going to see the new born King and people were taking their finest gifts to honor the new born King, but he had no gifts. He goes on to say “*I am a poor boy too, I have no gift to bring that’s fit to give the King.*” And then he gets to the stable and asks “*Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum, On my drum?*” And as the song finishes, Mary nods and the ox and lamb kept time as he played his best for the new King. And then the final lines say “*Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum, Me and my drum.*”

But another called “The Friendly Beasts” tells of how even animals can give. Sure it may be a little “far-fetched,” or is it? Each beast at the stable tells of what he did. The donkey carried Mary on her way to Bethlehem, the cow gave up his manger, the sheep gave his wool to keep Christ warm, the camel brought the wise men with their gifts, the dove cooed Christ to sleep, and the rooster crowed the news up to the sky. The song ends with “Thus, every beast, by some good spell in the stable dark was glad to tell of the gift he gave Emanuel, of the gift he gave Emanuel.”

These stories all tell us that we are important. I recently heard a speaker compare us to a rainbow. By ourselves we are just ourselves, but together we

form a rainbow. Together we can change the world regardless of who we are. We are only as important as we are in God’s eyes. The rest of society doesn’t matter.

What we do for our Lord is what matters. It may just be a song, or a coat, or a cup of coffee, but when we do it for others, we do it for God.

“Today I have realized that people who are kind are actually the richest, because they are giving away kindness something that can never be taken or stolen.”



“Kindness is more than deeds. It is an attitude, an expression, a look, a touch. It is anything that lifts another person.” Plato



Prayer: Heavenly Father, Please help us to realize the great gift of Your Son that You have given to us, and then help us to spread the good news to others so that they too are willing to speak out and work silently to tell others. Help us to realize that we can make a difference. In name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

1. Do you ever think that you can’t make a difference?
2. Do you ever have a dream that you can make a difference? Do you follow that dream or put it away, thinking people will laugh at you?
3. Each of us was given talents. Where does your gift fit into the overall picture of salvation? Do we dare to lead by example?
4. What name are you remembered by?

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*Just because an animal is large,
it doesn't mean he doesn't want kindness.*
- A. A. Milne