

John 6:1-15
(Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-7; 2Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:6-8)
“Kingdom Economics”

Introduction

This is the only one of Jesus’ miracles recorded in all four gospels. Why? What is so crucial about this story that it requires four different accounts? Why did each gospel author consider his telling of the gospel story to be incomplete without this particular story? Could it be because this story addresses us in every age and culture at precisely the point where we are most likely to doubt God’s power, to back away from our call to minister to human need, to turn inward and care only for ourselves?

Are we not at just such a moment in time? Hasn’t the economic crisis caused many to turn inward and say, “I can’t think about others just now – I have to take care of myself”? Yet God’s call to us remains the same: “You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. You are my answer to feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the widow and the orphan.” The apostle Paul wrote that our model is to be “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

In this story from the life of Jesus, we find a description of the economic plan that should sustain God’s people in all the seasons of life, a plan that ensures that we will meet the needs of those around us and still have enough left over to meet our daily needs.

Body

- 1. Note the situation facing Jesus and his disciples: overwhelming need and scarce resources.**
- 2. Note the practical response of the disciples: we haven’t enough even for ourselves. Send them away.**
- 3. Note the compassionate response of Jesus: You give them something to eat.**
- 4. Note the economics of God’s kingdom: When they give the little they have to Jesus, he multiplies it to meet the need.**
- 5. Note the result: Christ is glorified – the people want to make him king – and the disciples’ own needs are met with the plenty that is left over.**

Conclusion

What of you? Are you going to draw back and miss this incredible opportunity to order your life around God’s priorities, or are you going to step out in faith and offer the Lord what you have so that he might multiply it and build his kingdom here in the midst of this world’s crumbling empires?

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