



Life Group Study Notes

New Sanctuary Celebration: The Principles of Multiplication

Ps. Robert Morris - March 19, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What's the most generous gift someone ever gave you?
- What was one of the greatest sacrificial gifts you ever had the privilege of giving away?
- If you could give a loved one a special gift that you currently can't afford, what would it be?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org.

God is a God who can MULTIPLY resources!

Luke 9:12-14 *When the day began to wear away, the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the multitude away, that they may go into the surrounding towns and country, and lodge and get provisions; for we are in a deserted place here." But He said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people." For there were about five thousand men.*

Matthew 14:21 *Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

Luke 9:14-17 *For there were about five thousand men. And He said to His disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of fifty." And they did so, and made them all sit down. Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them.*

- Many scholars think his may have been the largest crowd Jesus ever spoke to. The crowd could have been as much as 20,000 people, because there were about 5000 men besides women and children.
- It had been a long day and the people were hungry, in need of food, but there was no place nearby to get any food for such a large crowd.
- Jesus' response is shocking for the disciples.

Luke 9:13 *But He said to them, "You give them something to eat."*

- Of course, the disciples had virtually no food among them.

Luke 9:16 *He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude.*

- The miracle did not happen in the Master's hands. It happened in the disciple's hands!
- There are 2 principles of multiplication from this story.
 1. It has to be blessed before it can multiply.
 - So many people say that they give, but they don't give to the Lord first.

- It doesn't have the potential to multiply if it's not blessed.
- What if they had given it away before it was blessed?
- Many people give, but they don't give the first portion to Jesus.
- Jesus is the one who receives our tithes (Heb. 7).
- 2. It has to be given away before it can multiply.
 - What if the disciples had eaten it after it had been blessed?!
 - We need to give over and above the tithe.
 - The bread was blessed and had the potential to multiply, but what if they had eaten it themselves?
- God spoke to Ps Robert Morris, "I want you to get your finances in order so I can bless them!"
 1. Get out of debt.
 2. Don't manipulate people to get money.
 3. Give generously and obediently according to God's leading.
- Here's the best part!
 - God says to extravagant givers, "Ask whatever you want!" (which he said to Solomon, who had given above and beyond to the building of the temple).
 - Ps. Robert Morris' request: "I want Debbie and I to be passionately in love for the rest of our lives!"

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related point for discussion.

- What has been your experience with regard to God's promise to bless us if we are faithful to give and be a generous people?
- What does it mean for our finances to be blessed by God? What do we have to do to see God's blessings realized in our finances?
- What can hinder God's blessings in our lives?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Ask God to show you if there is anything you are doing or failing to do that is hindering his blessings in your life?
- Ask God to lead you into an opportunity to be generous.
- Ask God if you should take one of the financial classes offered by Bethel's Momentum ministry.