

“You Give Them Something to Eat.”

- I. We will see the Kingdom come in great power in our area when we realize how absolutely committed God is to using ordinary people for supernatural ministry.**
 - A. The first disciples had no super training or preparation—just “proclaim the good news and heal people everywhere” (Luke 9:1-6).
 - B. After their ministry trip they found 5,000 hungry men and wanted to send them away. But Jesus said, “You give them something to eat” (Luke 9:13). To their amazement, five loaves and two fish were multiplied in their hands with food left over (Luke 9:16-17)!
 - C. What is the Jesus plan for taking care of the needs of hungry people in our area? Two things are certain: 1) It will be impossible, and 2) God will use us to miraculously provide.
 - D. Later Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him on a mountain to pray. They saw Jesus transfigured! Moses and Elijah appeared! They heard the Father’s voice say, “This is my Son whom I have chosen. Listen to Him” (Luke 9:28-34).

- II. You would think after these events Jesus’ disciples would be super-charged and flowing with Jesus. But this was not the case.**
 - A. The disciples argued about which one of them would be the greatest (Luke 9:46-48).
 - B. When someone was driving demons out in Jesus’ name, they tried to stop him; because they said, “He is not one of us” (Luke 9:49).
 - C. When a Samaritan village would not offer them hospitality on their way to Jerusalem, they said, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” Jesus “turned and rebuked them...” and went on to another village (Luke 9:54-56).

- III. You would think Jesus would have given up on His disciples. We probably would have taken them out of the program for a while so that they could get a little more seasoned. Instead Jesus appointed 72 other novices to do the same thing and told them to “Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field” (Luke 10:1-17).**
 - A. Jesus also had to give the 72 a little correction (Luke 10:18-20).
 - B. Jesus was very happy to see power released through very ordinary people, and the Father was pleased, too (Luke 10:21)!
 - C. Then Jesus told them how blessed they were to see such things (Luke 10:22-24).
 - D. Jesus is not looking for perfectly qualified people. He’s looking for people with heart, with boldness, and who are a work in progress (Proverbs 14:4).

- IV. This wasn’t the first time God had trouble finding people for His program.**
 - A. He’s always looking for someone who will build the wall and stand before Him on behalf of the land, so He will not have to destroy it (Ezekiel 22:29-31; II Chronicles 7:13-16).
 - B. God’s program is for ordinary people to carry out a supernatural agenda (E.g., Jonah)
 1. God called Jonah to warn Nineveh, but Jonah didn’t want Nineveh to repent and went the opposite direction. He had to be swallowed by a fish before he felt “led” to go.
 2. Why would God still use Jonah, and why would God care about the Ninevites?
 3. When Nineveh turned at Jonah’s preaching, he was still mad (Jonah 3:10; 4:1-11).
 4. What a mystery that God uses people like you and I. Beware!