



APPNOTES

Date: November 19-23, 2018

Series: For NEPA

Luke 9:10-17 Three years. That's how long the disciples followed Jesus around Judea. They had seen him cast out demons, heal diseases, and change lives. You would think they'd have caught it at this point—this was no ordinary man. This was God in human form, able to do the unimaginable. But, like us, the disciples let the demands of life get in the way of seeing God. The tyranny of the urgent, their stomachs, ruled! "Let's take a break!" they might have said. "We're hungry, and so is the crowd!" The One who feeds body and soul stood among them. They didn't need to look any further to have their needs met. Do we fail to trust the ever-present God of the universe to do the impossible? Probably. Our vision can be limited, and our stomachs large. Let's offer our gifts to Jesus and trust Him to do the miraculous.

Luke 9:10-17 God delights in using small things—small gifts, small numbers, small people. He is a God of paradigms: our culture says big and powerful; our God says small and insignificant. Through a baby, a teenage mom, a couple of coins, or two fish and five loaves, God brought sufficiency and abundance. It's in the small things God can show His power. That's the way He works. When we say, "I'm not a teacher. How can I lead a children's class?" Or "How important can my \$10 be to the poor in South Sudan?" Or "How will these five hats keep the homeless of Scranton warm?", we forget we serve the God of the universe, a miracle-working God. Your gift of time, money, or care, when given to God, will expand, explode, enlarge! It's the mathematics and love of heaven at work. Give Him your two fish and get those baskets ready!

Mark 6:30-44 If God told you to feed the poor of NEPA, your initial reaction might be "I'm happy just to put food on my table. What can I do in the face of such need?" Plenty—when we do it together. That's key. It happens every week in the women's group of our church. A local need is presented, and God's miracle work begins. Individual women become a powerhouse for God as they give together: peanut butter, cereal, and socks for the homeless; pillows and towels for displaced veterans; baby clothes and car seats for parents in crisis situations; entire Christmas wish lists for single moms; shampoo, Christmas cookies, and books for the county prison. And that's just the tip of the miracle iceberg. One woman's box of spaghetti, winter hat,

or washcloth has been multiplied a thousand-fold. Give what you can and be a part of the miracle FOR NEPA.

Mark 6:30-44 The Gaithers have a wonderful children's song I loved to sing with my children: "I am a Promise, I am a Possibility. I am a great big bundle of Potentiality. I am learning to hear God's voice. I am learning to make the right choice." It was a cheerleader's encouragement for kids who were facing obstacles or personal limitations. I think most adults could use the same inspiration. Many of us have become so jaded by circumstances and discouraged by troubles that the joy of shining for Jesus has peeled and tarnished. Let's put some shine on your image! Make the choices Jesus would make and bring back the gleam! God says we will "shine like stars in the sky" as we pour out His love. The skies over NEPA could use some brightening. Be a Difference-Maker. Cooperate in God's work here. You ARE a Promise, a bundle of Potentiality!

Mark 6:30-44 The best way to learn something is to see it done. Show me how to plaster the ceiling, how to make flaky pie crust, or even how to live well, and I can learn better. Jesus showed us how to live for God's Kingdom. Look what He did before He produced a bumper crop of food for the crowds: He offered thanks, broke the bread, and gave to the people. He did the same with His life: After giving thanks, He allowed His body to be broken on the cross, and He granted us salvation through His love. Are you giving thanks for your abundant blessings? Are you willing to allow yourself to be broken for Jesus, however that may look? Are you ready to give? The people of NEPA need the bread of heaven. Follow the pattern of the Master Teacher. Do what Jesus did.

Sign up to receive AppNotes by email each morning, Monday-Friday.

parkerhill.org/bible