John 6:1-14
“A Little Lad with a Little Lunch”

Introduction

I have noticed a reoccurring theme among like-minded Baptist in recent days. We find ourselves saying clichés such as “we are looking for God to do BIG things.” Or, “we are asking God to do something BIG.” While that is not necessarily a bad thing, what concerns me is that I am afraid that we are missing all the LITTLE things that God is doing. God does a million little things for us every day that we probably never think about. I also find that it is through these little things that God actually does some BIG things. It is through some small and insignificant things that God does MIGHTY things.

Creation is a BIG thing, and yet God created the world with just a few little words, “let there be.” When God delivered His children from Pharaohs bondage that was a BIG thing, but it all started with a little bush. When God was reconciling the world unto Himself on the cross that was a BIG thing, and yet He announced it with three little words, “it is finished.” It is the case in our text that God does a BIG thing in feeding the five thousand men, not counting women and children through a little lad with a little lunch.

Tonight, as we walk through this text I would like to point out some lessons from a little lunch. You may be surprised what you can learn from just five loaves and two small fish, but there is much to be learned from this little lunch.

The first lesson I would like to examine from this little lunch is
I.  **The Lesson about the Lad**

   A.  **The Lad’s Size**

       Charles Spurgeon referred to these five loaves and two fish and five biscuits and two sardines. Andrew is the one who brought this young boy to Christ and even he questions what good such a small lunch is among so many people. The fact that this was enough food for this boy testifies that he was small.

   B.  **The Lad’s Social Status**

       The Bible says that this little boy had five barley loaves. Originally, the Israelites would use barley flour to make their bread, but later wheat became common but only the wealthy could afford it. This little boy is small in stature as well as status. This lunch shows us that this boy was poor. He wasn’t in the upper echelon, he wasn’t well known, but he found himself among the poor and common folks.

   C.  **The Lad’s Sacrifice**

       It seems as though there was a hunt for food among the disciples. The Lord has commanded that they feed this great multitude and they have no food. Philip said two hundred days pay wouldn’t be enough to purchase enough food for every one to get a little bit!

       After searching for some food, Andrew finds this little lad who has his little lunch. Let’s not forget he brought this lunch for a reason. He evidently anticipated getting hungry. This was his lunch. Who knows what they had back at the house, since they were poor this may have been all he would have today.
V.11 says that Jesus took the loaves. The word took does not imply that Jesus snatched these loaves out of this little boys hand. Our Savior would never do such a thing. The word means to accept. I believe that without hesitation, without reluctance, the little boy places his little lunch in the hands of a big savior!

Notice the boy didn’t say that they Lord could have two loaves and one fish. He didn’t say He could split it half and half. The little boy offers everything he has to His Lord. I believe God looks at this offering like He did the widows might. He gave more than anyone there that day!

You may be little in your spiritual stature. You may be little in your social status. But that doesn’t have to stop you from sacrificing what you have to your Savior! Bring your little and place it ALL in the hands of God!

The second lesson I would like to examine from this little lunch is

II. The Lesson about the Lord

A. The Lord’s Strength – Power

All four Gospel writers place this miracle in their writings. They all inform us that after Jesus took the loaves, he blessed them, he broke them, and then he passed them out. This strength is clearly not natural. Looking at the text you will never see where this miracle takes place. In only the way our Lord can do it, supernaturally He infuses His strength and power into the little that He was given and the loaves and fish are multiplied!
This strength is untraceable in the sense that you can’t figure out when it comes into the situation, but this strength is undeniable because of the fact five thousand men ate fish and bread!

That is how the Lord will work in your life. You may not know when the power comes in, but all of a sudden it’s just there. The miracle has been performed. The need has been met. His strength has been given!

B. The Lord’s Supply – Provision

This lunch shows that little is much when God is in it. When Philip was talking about feeding the multitude in verse seven he mentioned giving every a little bit, but when the Lord makes provision in verse eleven they took “as much as they would.” They took as much as they desired. They took as much as they wanted. They ate until they were full!

This reminds me of David in the twenty-third Psalm when he proclaimed “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” What David said was, because Jehovah is my shepherd I won’t lack a thing. Every need I have will be met. Paul said it like this in Phil 4:19, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

The Lord literally met everyone’s individual need that day. They all had enough. No one walked away saying they didn’t get enough to eat that day. That day the Lord took a little bit, and made a whole lot of little bits, and fed a lot of other little bits! We serve a good God, who is a loving heavenly Father that meets every need His children have!
C. The Lord’s Sovereignty – Providence

V.5-6 informs us the Jesus knew exactly what He was going to do. Not only did He know what He was going to do, He knew how He was going to do it, and whom He was going to do it through. Christ had lined everything up that day. He had made all the necessary arrangements for this miracle to take place.

I’m simply saying that Jesus gave this little boy exactly what he had. Jesus put this little boy right where he needed to be in order to be found. Jesus gave this boy just a little bit on purpose. He didn’t want him to have more or he would have! WHY?

1 Cor 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

You may have wondered why you don’t have more than you do? You may wish you had it better than you do. Just understand that God knows where you are and He knows exactly what He wants to do with what He has given you! So just give what you have to HIM!
D. The Lord’s Scope – Purpose – V.26-58

Why would the Lord do this? Why would he have this little boy bring bread? Because just a little down the road Jesus wanted to declare to the same crowd that He was the bread of life! Jesus said you ate that bread and you’re hungry again, but if you will eat of me, you will never hunger again!

That is what Jesus wants to do with your life! He wants to take you and preach His saving message through your life to a lost world that stands in desperate need of His saving grace! Many think they are too little to be used by the Lord in this way, but let me remind you that we are talking about fives loaves and two little fish!

_The third lesson I would like to examine from this little lunch is_

III. The Lesson in the Leftovers

A. The Leftovers were Significant

V.12 Jesus said to “gather up the fragments that remain.” The word fragments means a small broken piece. Jesus said gather up the little bits. Gather up the broken pieces. Gather up the leftovers! A fragment by itself is isolated, incomplete, and really not worth a whole lot. But when you put all the little pieces together they have substance!

B. The Leftovers had Substance

Jesus made these leftovers just as He made what had already been eaten. Jesus said gather them up that nothing be lost. Somebody
was going to be able to eat these left overs. These leftovers were going to give strength to somebody. These leftovers were going to give life to someone. These leftovers were going to meet someone’s need!

Some people wont eat left overs. They always throw out the scraps after they eat the initial meal. I am glad Jesus believes in leftovers, because really that is all I have ever had to eat. Everything I know about Jesus I know because of what the Apostles left. They left a book full of the bread of life! I have found crumbs and it taste just as fresh as when they ate it!

I still eat the leftovers of Gods men down through the ages! I read old sermons from Charles Spurgeon; I read Matthew Henry’s commentary. I read Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield. We read preachers who have come down through the years and their words are just as fresh as when they left them!

**Conclusion**

Now that we have learned these lessons from a little lad with a little lunch, maybe God has searched you out just like this little boy, and maybe He is asking for what little you have to be given to Him?

What will you leave behind? Will there be any substance to your life once your gone? You can either leave behind crumbs from the bread of life, or you can blaze a trail that leads to eternal destruction. **I believe Christ wants to take you and the little He has given you in His hands, bless your life, and break you so that He can pass you out and let others feast on the bread of life! Are you willing to do that?**