

SOMETHING BIG FROM SOMETHING SMALL

I. [John 6:1-14](#) & [John 6:26-35](#)

A. Today we're doing something little which is a part of something big. If most of our kids or grandkids received a shoebox full of toys for their only gift this Christmas, it's fair to say they would be disappointed. But the children around the globe receiving these, they'll likely receive them with much joy and thanksgiving. Oh to see their faces!

B. In today's account of Jesus we see Him take something small and do something big with it. This story is a metaphor of what He wants to do with our lives. Jesus does things like this everyday so why not with us?!

C. John 6:1-14 Jesus feeds 5,000 men plus women and children...

1) **V1-7** "After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following Him, because they saw the signs that He was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up His eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward Him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." **(But is this approaching crowd hungry for spiritual food?)**

2) **V8-14** "One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when He had given thanks, He distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, He told His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that He had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

3) **Kudos to the boy for giving all he had! What might Jesus do with what little we give to Him? (What might He do with these small shoebox gifts today?) So what might He want to do with small and insignificant people like us? Ultimately this great miracle affirms that God the Son is with us--Emmanuel is another fitting name for Jesus.**

D. John 6:26-35 People follow Jesus wanting more miracle bread...

1) **V26** "Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves." **(They're more interested in the gifts than the Giver! Many want the provision without the Provider or the healing without the Healer or rescue without the Rescuer!)**

2) **V27-29** ""Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal." Then they said to Him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." **(Do you believe? Have you placed your faith in Jesus? If you lack faith, try asking for it.)**

3) **V30-33** "So they said to Him, "Then what sign do You do, that we may see and believe You? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the True Bread from heaven. **(cf John 3:16)** For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." **(Where it says 'world' in your Bible, pencil in your name.)**

4) **V34-35** "They said to Him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.""

E. My prayer for you is that you believe in Jesus Christ, the True Bread that has come from Heaven. That He would become your Reason for living, your Purpose in Life, your North Star, your Pearl of Great Price, your King of Hearts, your All in All. That He would become your Wisdom, your Source, your Holiness, your Righteousness, your Redeemer, your Rescuer, your Savior and your Lord. And if He already is all those things to you, then I pray He would become those things more and more and more.

* Close with [1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#) and Prayer...

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NIV) "Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him. It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

John 6:1-14 (ESV)

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John 6:26-35 (ESV)

26 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. **27** Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal." **28** Then they said to Him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" **29** Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." **30** So they said to Him, "Then what sign do You do, that we may see and believe You? What work do you perform? **31** Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" **32** Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the True Bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." **34** They said to Him, "Sir, give us this bread always." **35** Jesus said to them, "I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NIV)

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Film Clips & Other Links

"Love in a Box" (Operation Christmas Child) by Melisa Bester
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1tt7cmJGkA>

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand - John 6:1-15
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6TjOhnv1Nk>

The Bread of Life - The I Am sayings of Jesus - R.C. Sproul
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfYsvcmzNM8>

"Five Loaves and Two Fishes" by Corrinne May
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IP6Z_OpZqls

"Two Little Fishes" by the Dixie Hummingbirds
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wr3nH1Pdnfo>

Bonus Stuff

Small Things God Uses

<http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Small-Things-God-Uses>

A Little Poem

Author Unknown

Shamgar had an ox-goad,
David had a sling,
Samson had a jawbone,
Rahab had a string,
Mary had some ointment,
Aaron had a rod,
Dorcas had a needle,
All were used for God.

God Loves to Use the Small Things

By Dr. Joe McKeever

<http://www.crosswalk.com/church/pastors-or-leadership/god-loves-to-use-the-small-things-11640345.html>

I put a note on Facebook this week to say I'm working on a sermon on this theme, based on Zechariah 4:10, "*Who has despised the day of small things?*" I asked the question, "What small things have you seen God use? Think of things I may have overlooked."

The answers are still coming in. A song. A flower. A little boy's lunch. A baby in a manger. A teenage mother. A star. A cup of water. A couple of coins in the offering from a widow. Mustard seed.

In the last year or two, I've written on this website a sermon on two on this subject. Without an index here to locate the myriads of messages, the only way I know to locate them is by googling something like "*McKeever/Day of Small Things*." It should take you to the previous sermons on this blog.

That sermon--any sermon on the subject I would think--needs to point out that God loves to use:

Small numbers. Jonathan told his armor-bearer (I Samuel 14:6) that it makes little difference to God whether He saves by the few or the many.

Good reminder. You and I know small churches that feel they can't do anything because their members are few in number. Not so.

Small people. The Apostle Paul suggested in I Corinthians 1:26ff that the members of that church look around. They would see not many celebrities, not many people the world acclaims as great or mighty or rich or gifted. God chose to use the nobodies of the world.

Small gifts. No one illustrates this better than the boy who gave his lunch to Jesus and ended up feeding five thousand (John 6:9) or the widow who dropped her two coins into the offering and went on her way (Mark 12:42). Neither had any way of knowing what this meant to the Lord or that we would still be talking about them 2,000 years later.

Small moments. You prayed a prayer of commitment. You said "I do" at the altar. You decided to start reading your Bible. You went next door and invited your neighbor to church.

God loves to use small things. The thrust of what follows, however, is the implication of that for us. Mark it down in big letters and underscore it, the fact that God delights in using nothings and nobodies means a great deal to his children.

- Dr. Joe McKeever is a Preacher, Cartoonist, and the Director of Missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. Visit him at joemckeever.com/mt.

Small Churches

Dr. Dale A. Robbins

<http://www.victorious.org/>

Did you know that 90% of all Christian churches in America are small congregations? Since we live during a time when there are more large churches than ever before, many people are often surprised to learn that the strength of Christianity in the United States still relies on smaller churches. It is a fact that if small congregations were deleted from the map, Christianity would become a tiny, obscure religion, dwarfed by cultic philosophies such as Islam, Mormonism, Buddhism, or Jehovah's Witness.

Even though some larger churches have been celebrated for their phenomenal growth, their combined total only represents a fraction of Christianity. The average size of a church in America is around 100, and the largest percentile of churches have an attendance of less than 50. Out of the nearly 350,000 U.S. congregations, less than 5% will ever see an attendance of more than 700. Consequently, the backbone of American Christianity still rests squarely on the shoulders of the small church.

These statistics, combined with the fact that Christianity in the United States has continued to decline over the last twenty years, tells us a lot about the importance of the small church. Each of the thousands of smaller congregations is strategically important to the overall mission of Christ in America. In fact, if every small church grew only by 1% in the next two years, it could reverse the entire decline of Christianity in our nation, and translate into hundreds of thousands of new converts added to the body of Christ.