

What To Do When There Is Lack...

Ever wondered what to do when there is a lack in your life? Why do we constantly fret and worry about our daily needs when God has already provided something better for us (Hebrews 11:40)? Besides, we are commanded not to take thought for our life (Matthew 6:31-34).

Have you ever noticed that when God picked out a widow to sustain Elijah in the famine, He chose a POOR widow, and not a rich one? Read 1 Kings 17:8-16. If He had chose a rich widow then He would not have gotten any of the glory. The rich widow's money would have delivered the hungry prophet and there would have been no need to thank and praise God. People would have lauded the rich widow instead, and told her how great and merciful and generous she was. They would have erected a public statue to her for all to see. They would have named a building after her, or even perhaps put a plaque in the local synagogue in commemoration of her because she had shown the hungry prophet such great compassion by feeding him throughout the famine. In all of this God would not have gotten the glory. That is why He chose a POOR widow! Not only poor, but one that was scraping the very bottom of the barrel, and one that was ready to die, one that was ready to give up, both she and her child. By choosing one such as this God was able to show His miracle, working power. He would show the world that He could deliver a hungry prophet, a poor and dying widow, and her hungry child. God could get the glory. This is the type of God we serve; One that does not share His glory with flesh, or needs to lean on the arm of flesh to deliver you out of your troubles. God can handle anything that you throw at Him. God can pay your mortgage that is about to be foreclosed on, or at least get you a job to pay for it. God can deliver you from cancer when the doctor is shaking his head and saying, there is no more hope. God can feed you and your hungry children when the pantry and refrigerator are empty. God can do anything, but fail. God can do anything, and God will do anything because He wants to get the glory. He gets the glory when you testify of His goodness and mercy that He showed on you. Now this is why it is hard for a rich person to be saved and to inherit the kingdom of God (Mark 10:23-25), because they don't need God. They don't trust God. They don't want to give God any glory, they want to reserve that for themselves. They trust in their riches to deliver them. When trouble comes they write a check. Their money is their deliverer. But what happens when the money runs out? Where do they turn to then? You see a rich person doesn't need to depend on God. Why depend on God when your riches can supply all of your needs? Your trust and confidence is in your money and possessions, not God who gave them.

Now let us turn to the new Testament and take a look at the disciples and Jesus' attitude of faith concerning lack, as illustrated in Mark 6:31-44 (the feeding of the five thousand):

31 And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

32 And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.

33 And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him.

34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

35 And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed:

36 Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat.

37 He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?

38 He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes.

39 And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass.

40 And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.

41 And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

42 And they did all eat, and were filled.

43 And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes.

44 And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.

First, notice the attitude of his disciples. For in v.36, they said, "Send them away... for they have nothing to eat". They could not humanly meet the need of this great multitude. For they had said, send them away and let them buy their own food. Jesus is quick to challenge their faith, or lack thereof. He responds by laying this burden back at the feet of his disciples. For in v.37, our Lord said, "Give ye them to eat". The disciples responded with the wrong answer: "Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?" The disciples were presented with a problem of lack and failed to respond correctly, that is, by faith.

No matter the size of your lack; rather great or small, it is still lack. Have faith that God can fix it.

Jesus, on the other hand, responds purely in faith. He asked his disciples, “How many loaves have ye? Go and see.” After the disciples came back with a count of five loaves and two fishes, Jesus commands the people to sit down in an orderly fashion, in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. Jesus did not fret or worry rather this great lack could be met, or not. Instead he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, then distributed them to his disciples to set before all of the people.

The key here is that by faith Jesus gave thanks to the Father for what he already had and God miraculously multiplied it.

God supplied them with such an overabundance of loaves that they could feed upward to about five thousand men. God so greatly supplied the needs of the people that the disciples had leftovers. Yum! I bet that was a wonderful meal, no doubt the best they ever had, prepared straight from heaven’s kitchen. God’s miracle leftovers came to twelve baskets full of fragments, and of the fishes, vv. 43-44.

God will use the weak and beggarly things, the things of nought, to confound the wisdom of the wise, to confound the scoffers, skeptics, modernist and unbelievers. So that no flesh can glory in His presence. God can create something out of nothing, if you believe Him and don’t doubt. God can only move for you according to the size of your faith. In other words, the bigger your faith is, the bigger God shows up in your circumstance or adversity. Conversely, little or no faith will cause God not to move on your behalf at all.

The People’s Failure To Believe That God Could Meet Their Needs

Under the old covenant when the children of Israel complained about eating the same old Manna that fell in the wilderness it displeased the LORD so that His anger was kindled. The result was that the fire of the LORD burnt them up in the uttermost parts of the camp. This people had suffered lack but God gave them Manna from heaven, and they still complained because they missed the delicacies of Egypt (Numbers 11:1-34). They whined and complained about not having flesh

to eat to the point that the burden of this people was so hard on Moses that he wished for death vv. 11-15.

Now complaining about one's circumstances is not the way to receive the blessings and favor of the Lord. In fact, we have already learned that complaining about our situation will only bring the wrath of the Lord upon us, for He never changes, He is the same, yesterday, and to day, and for ever (Hebrews 13:8; 1 Corinthians 10:9-11). Let us be careful how we pray and what attitude we present our supplications to God. The children of Israel got what they wanted (lusted after), that is, flesh to eat (Numbers 11:18), but they got something else too (Numbers 11:19-20)-- the wrath of the LORD (Numbers 11:33). However, the giving of thanks, as in the case of our Lord (Mark 6:41) brings blessings and favor (Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:5-6; Colossians 3:17; Hebrews 13:15).

What Must I Do?

In order to receive these blessings and favor you must truly believe that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think; that He can supply all of your needs in Christ Jesus. Why will God do this for me? Because He wants to get the glory. Because He is our Father and loves us, because we do those things that always pleases Him, and because He said He would do it. Yes, God has promised to meet ALL of your needs, but this promise is conditional! We must first do what God says, we must SEEK first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, then all these things shall be added unto YOU. Repent and believe on the Lord Jesus. Take all the limits off of God now and believe His promises; for the promises are for you and your children, and as many who will come freely.

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