

The Lad, the Lunch and the Miracle

Text: John 6:1-14

1. A Lad

John 6:9a. No name was given. God can use you no matter who you are. No matter where you're from. No matter what you have.

2. A Lad with a Little

John 6:9b. Little is much when God is in it.

3. A Lad Listening

John 6:9-10. We find the lad listening to the request of Jesus.

4. A Lad Letting Go

John 6:11a. The Lord never blesses the closed hand; it is the generous open hand that God blesses.

Ecclesiastes 5:13. Let go and let God!

5. A Lad Lengthening

John 6:11b-13. II Corinthians 9:6.

Consider what the lad could have done with his lunch that day.

I. HE COULD HAVE THROWN IT AWAY.

Youth will often be tempted (and many adults as well) to say they are tired of the restricted, separated life. I want to see what's out in the world. Trust us on this; you don't have to lift up the sewer lid to see if it stinks.

Isaiah 43:22. Malachi 1:12b,13a. When we abdicate the holy lifestyle, we are also throwing away our ability to be used effectively for God. Psalm 24:3, 4, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."

II. HE COULD HAVE KEPT IT FOR HIMSELF.

I Corinthians 6:19, 20, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

You are God's by creation. You are God's by redemption.

Illustration: There was a little boy who did odd jobs for people for money. He finally saved up enough and bought the supplies to make a miniature sail boat. He was so proud of it. He set it on its maiden voyage and the wind caught it and began to take it to the other side of the lake. The little guy ran as hard as he could. It was too late. Someone found it and took it. He was so sad. Then a few days later he saw it in the window of a pawnshop. He quickly ran in and declared

to the owner, "You have my boat in your window!" The pawnshop owner said, "It's mine." The little boy said, "Oh, no sir, I know my boat; I made it. If you look on the underside of the hull, you'll see my initials." The owner of the shop said, "I don't care whose initials are there. I paid good money for it. And if you want it, you'll have to pay the price." It was quite a high price. But the little boy took extra jobs and worked very hard until after three weeks time he had enough money to buy it back. He went to the counter of the pawn store, laid down the money and the boat was his. As he walked out of the store, the boy held it close to his heart, stroked it and said, "Little boat, little boat - you're mine, you're mine! You're mine because I made you. And you're mine because I bought you!"

III. HE COULD HAVE TRIED TO FEED THE CROWD HIMSELF.

John 15:5. "I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

Imagine how far the boy could have gone had he attempted to feed the crowd himself. He would not have had enough for one person, let alone himself. Mark 10:27b. Luke 1:37.

IV. HE COULD HAVE TRIED TO ONLY GIVE PART OF IT.

Luke 14:33, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give! God never blesses those who are half in, half out. Revelation 3:16.

V. HE COULD HAVE TRIED TO SELL IT.

Can you imagine the lad inquiring, "Jesus, if I give You my lunch, what will You give me in return? What is in this total dedication for me?" The will of God is not something we negotiate. We don't cut a deal with God.

To try to market your gifts to the world rather than use them for the glory of God, is an attempt to prostitute your talents.

One of the sad stories in the Bible is in II Kings 5:25-27 when Gahazi, Elisha's servant decided to make a profit off something God was doing by His mercy and grace. We are to leave the reward for our service in God's hand while we are willing to do it from our heart, not for the praise of men or for what we may receive.

The Lord Jesus says in the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, "...Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, *that* shall ye receive" (Matthew 20:7b). When some of the servants complained, the Lord said, "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?" (Matthew 20:15). God's will is not for sale at any price. We do what Jesus tells us and leave the rest to Him. God will always do what is right, because He is good! This where we must trust Him. Genesis 18:25c. Psalm 119:68. Mark 7:37b. Two great Bible verses to memorize and always keep in mind on this issue are Psalm 84:11 and Psalm 37:25.

VI. HE COULD HAVE GIVEN ALL OF IT (and he did!).

The principle found in Luke 18:22 is that when we follow Jesus, nothing is held back: "Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me." Following Jesus means that we leave nothing to fall back on.

Illustration: Charles Lindbergh kept hearing a voice that said, "turn around - go back - no one has ever made it solo across the Atlantic Ocean and you can't either." He was in danger on more than one occasion during the laborious trip. He was tempted to obey that voice - that is, until he came to the place in the North Atlantic called "the point of no return." It is exactly midway between the United States and Europe. When he flew one foot past that point, he never heard that voice again. Now he heard a new voice that said, "Go forward, go forward now, Charles; you'd be a fool to go back. You're closer to the other side than where you came from."

Get to the point of no return! Burn all the bridges behind you! Give it all! Don't turn back! Don't even look back! Luke 9:62: "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

CONCLUSION:

What happened to the 12 baskets left over? I think Jesus said to His disciples, "Follow that boy home!" I can see the boy approaching his home. His mother sees him and says, "Did you eat all your lunch?" "Yes, ma'am! And then some!" "Who are those men behind you?" "The disciples of Jesus, Mama!" "And what is it that they are carrying?" "My leftovers, Mama!"

When we give our all to Jesus, there will be more leftover than if we keep it all for ourselves. He multiplies our blessings.

Exodus 4:2, "And the LORD said unto him (Moses), What *is* that in thine hand? And he said, A rod." What's in your hand? What's in your heart? What's in your life? Give it all! Give it all to Jesus!

-Johnny Pope-