

Lesson Notes:

Dealing with the problems of Life

It's easy to get so caught up in the problems of life that we tend to face them alone without asking God's involvement. We need to remember that no problem is too small or too large for God to handle.

Scriptural Principles

- 1) Perception is half the battle** - The Problem as perceived by the disciples was that there was too many to feed so they wanted Jesus to send the multitude away. They simply wanted Jesus to get rid of them. But, Jesus reply was that we need to feed them. Problems can be a way for us to learn a lesson– **John 6:2; Matthew 14:15**
- 2) Jesus knows our needs and how he will meet them before we even know of our need.** - Jesus posed the question to Philip how will we feed them simply to test Philip simply as a test. – **John 6:5** – Jesus tests us with challenges and problems.
- 3) Philip's answer is typical of many – John 6:7** – He did not include Jesus in the calculation. This is common for us not to include Jesus in our problem solving.
- 4) Remember that Jesus is the bread of life – John 6:47-48; John 6:8-9** – Andrew looks for an answer and finds a boy with 2 fishes and 5 small barley loaves. But Andrew like Philip didn't put God into the equation when he told Jesus that the 5 loaves and 2 fishes would never be adequate to feed the multitude.
- 5) We need to remember that God supplies all of our needs. – Philippians 4:19**
- 6) Little people matter to Jesus – John 6:8-9;** Jesus could have feed the multitude by raining down manna from heaven as God did when his people were in the wilderness. But he chose to work through a small boy. This shows us that he likes to work through people that are perceived to be insignificant. What can he do with us?
- 7) Jesus is sensitive to our needs even though he is pressed from all sides. – Mark 5:25-32** – Many times we feel we are too small and insignificant to bring our needs to God. But no one is too small and no problem insignificant to God.
- 8) Jesus is always adequate and supplies more than our needs – John 6:11-13**
- 9) In Mark 6:39-44 we see three things about Jesus –**
 - a) Jesus is orderly**
 - b) Jesus took time to give God Thanksgiving – We need to give God thanks for the blessings in our lives as well.**
 - c) Jesus used his disciples to execute his plan and he uses us.**