

Like Son – Like Father

I want us to go on a journey with Jesus.

This journey began after the Sermon on the Mount which is recorded in Luke 6.

Luke says there was a great crowd of Jesus' disciples (Luke 6:17).

Luke also tells us there was also a great multitude of people.

They came to hear and be healed.

They all wanted to have a chance to touch Him.

"For power came forth from Him and healed them all" (Luke 6:19)

This crowd followed Jesus on this journey.

Who could blame them?

Jesus was different from anyone they had ever heard or met.

After the sermon on the mount Jesus went to Capernaum.

While there He encountered a centurion who had a deathly sick slave.

Remember, the great multitude wanted to touch Jesus if they were sick.

If they could touch Him they would be healed.

The centurion sent a message to Jesus.

"Jesus don't come to my house because I am unworthy to receive you.

"Just say the word and my slave will be healed."

Jesus marveled at what He had been told and addressed the multitude.

"I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." (vs. 9)

I wonder, was anyone listening?

The journey continued to a city called Nain.

The great crowd and His disciples followed Him to Nain.

There Jesus raised a young man back to life.

The great crowd saw this and they glorified God.

"God has visited His people." (7:17)

And this report went out to the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

I wonder, was anyone listening?

Later on Jesus spoke about John the Baptist.

He made a bold proclamation to the crowds that were still following Him.

"None is greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he" (17:28).

I wonder, was anyone listening?

Then Jesus talked to the crowds about their generation.

What are the men of this generation like?

They are like children in the market place.

They call out to each other but do nothing.

They are all talk and no action.

That is what the men of Jesus' day were like.

Men were like their children, all talk and no action.

I wonder, was anyone listening?

Jesus entered a Pharisee's home for supper.

While there a sinful woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears

It was an act of courage and love.

She knew she would not be welcome in a Pharisee's home.

She anointed Him with an alabaster jar of costly perfume.

In Matthew's gospel it is said this story would be told everywhere.

Jesus said, "her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little. Your faith has saved you, go in peace" (7:37, 50)

I wonder, was anyone listening?

In chapter 8 the great crowd gathers again going from town to town.

Jesus told the parable of the sower of seeds.

"The seed that fell on good soil grew and yielded 100 fold" (8:8).

One little seed in good soil accomplishes amazing things.

I wonder, was anyone listening?

Jesus' journey continued throughout Galilee.

The crowd was waiting for Him everywhere He went.

A woman squeezed through the crowd to touch Jesus.

There were multitudes of people pressing in.

But her finger touched Jesus' garment.

Jesus felt power leave and demanded to know who touched Him.

The woman came trembling.

Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well, go in peace." (8:48)

I wonder, was anyone listening?

Then Jesus and His disciples went to Bethsaida.

And the crowds followed Him (9:11).

There is always a crowd.

But had anyone been listening?

Had anyone heard:

"I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith"?

"God has visited His people"?

"He who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than John"?

"They were like their children, all talk and no action"?

"Your faith has saved you, go in peace"?

"One little seed in good soil multiplies 100 fold."

"Daughter, your faith has made you well, go in peace"?

Let's see as we read Luke 9:10-17.

I am convinced at least one person was listening.

I can't prove this person heard every statement.

Matthew tells us there were 5,000 men plus women and children.

John tells us that Jesus brought up the subject of supper.

He suggested to Philip that the disciples supply the food.

Philip had an idea.

He was from Bethsaida which happened to be the closest town.

He knew that Bethsaida could use the business.

Imagine our restaurants with over 5,000 hungry travelers?

Send them to town and they can buy food there.

Andrew, also from Bethsaida said they had some food.

But he knew it wouldn't be enough to go around.

At our Mission Convention Jay Sundberg asked this question.

What do you do when God asks you to do something big?

Do we say, "That's impossible, God You're unreasonable, You can't be serious"?

Do we come up with excuses that I am not big enough, I am short on resources?

We can pass the buck and act like it is someone else's responsibility.

The disciples' responses were classic.

They suggested they make it someone else's problem.

Apathy is not a phenomenon of the 20th and 21st centuries.

We've all used the same excuses the disciples used.

All our money put together could not accomplish what Jesus is asking.

Jesus asked the disciples to do something unreasonable and impractical.

It was borderline impossible.

The disciples were in the crowd with every statement.

But had they heard?

Their solution was to send the 5,000 men plus women and children away.

Jesus' solution was for the disciples to feed the multitude.

All they could find was 5 loaves and bread and 2 fish.

They had so little and the hunger was so big.

Why did Jesus put them in this impossible situation?

Jay Sundberg shared some things here that help us know how to respond.

I The disciples supplied the resources to Jesus.

They brought the little bit of food they did have to Jesus.

It was embarrassing really.

What hungry man will be happy with a loaf of bread cut into 1000 tiny slices?

But they brought the food to Jesus and He blessed it and broke it.

We can always bring to Jesus the resources we do have and ask His blessing.

II The disciples unified the crowd with Jesus.

They told people to sit in groups of 50.

I've tried to get a group of 20 young people organized to sit in groups.

It isn't easily done.

But Jesus wanted the disciples to learn to get ready for a miracle.

We need to get organized and united to be prepared for God's miracles.

III The disciples applied their faith in Jesus.

Jesus broke the bread and told the disciples to start handing it out.

Jesus didn't have all the food ready before the distribution began.

As He broke the bread and fish the disciples delivered.

They did what Jesus told them to do when it didn't make sense.

When did they know there was going to be enough food?

Probably not until the leftovers were gathered up.

Jesus asks us to apply faith and take the first step.

But there is a question we need to ask, "Where did the food come from?"

The food came from someone in the crowd who had been listening.

A young boy had given them his lunch.

He wasn't even important enough to be counted.

Only the men were counted, no one cared how many kids were there.

What difference does it make if there are kids in the crowd?

And the men who took his lunch weren't terribly excited about it.

Why would he give his lunch that was so little among so many?

What difference would it make?

Maybe he heard, even the least is greater than John.

Maybe he heard that huge amounts can come from one seed.

Maybe he heard how faith changes the situation.

Maybe he didn't want to be all talk and no action.

Jesus met the need of the crowd with someone who was insignificant.

What would have happened if the boy had kept his little lunch?

What if he had thought the same way the disciples did?

My lunch won't make a difference

The need was met because the boy gave his lunch.

His lunch—one seed, in Jesus' hands—the good soil, met the need.

Jay asked us that day, "Would you give your lunch?"

"Would you give your lunch to help the great things that God is ready to do?"

"Would you give your lunch to God once a week, even once a month?"

I found myself saying that day, "Yes I would, yes I will."

I decided to fast my next two lunches at Assembly.

It would be a whopping value of \$20.00.

I didn't know what God wanted me to do with the \$20.00.

I just knew He was asking for it.

The next day Sharon Kirby shared about a LINKS package of school supplies.

They had all these supplies for a missionary family moving to Ethiopia.

They were going to have to home school their children.

But the postage to get the package to Ethiopia was high.

They needed almost \$300.00 but had no money.

God said to me as she spoke, give Sharon the \$20.00.

So after the session I went to her and said, "Here is my lunch.

"God wants you to have it for postage."

At our Board meeting this week, Neal presented a mission challenge.

He shared that he is researching how to respond to this project.

I shared my lunch story with the board.

And something amazing happened that I never anticipated.

Someone else shared a compassionate need that a family was facing.

The Board unanimously decided it was something we needed to respond to.

And a family is rejoicing today because God has provided for them.

I'm asking you today, would you give your lunch to Jesus?

I have decided I am going to continue to give Him one lunch each week.
I'm going to keep giving it until He tells me He doesn't need it anymore.
What difference will one lunch - \$10 make in this huge world?
I am going to wait and see what Jesus will do with it.
Maybe a church will have a new roof.
Maybe a village will have water or food.
Maybe a family will come to Christ through the Jesus Film.
Maybe a life will be saved physically and spiritually.
What can my lunch do?
Are we going to settle to be a generation of all talk, no action?
Would you give your lunch?
As disciples of Jesus we supply what we have.
I want us to start a "MY LUNCH" account in our church budget.
As disciples of Jesus we are unified with Him to organize.
God will use it if we will give it.
As disciples of Jesus we apply faith to respond to need.

Closing Song - Eagle's Wings