

SOUTHWEST ASSEMBLY
REST AND PROVISION IN THE KINGDOM
JOHN 6:1-14

I want to speak to you out of a passage that was a part of my regular reading this week. As I sat preparing to lead an early meeting I was struck by the simplicity but the incredible powerful reality that Jesus invites His disciples to experience and comprehend.

The first thing I was struck by was how little Jesus actually spoke.....3 sentences....

John 6 Jesus while trying to invite His friends into a needed time of rest find themselves faced with an even larger pressing issue - 5000 men - 15,000 if you add women and children....who have come with an agenda of seeing more of Jesus but no preparation.

Jesus demonstrates something that I feel surpass's just the crisis of feeding this massive number of people - **He lives Kingdom Provision from the Place of REST!**

- There is nothing quit so discouraging as trying to do more when you have nothing left to give.
- When the body is exhausted and the spirit is depleted.

That is just a little bit of what Jesus friends felt as they returned from their first 'on-call' experience. Jesus sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom and call men and women to repent. They had seen seeing folks get healed - the demonized set free. It was intense and it was incredible. But as soon as they rejoined Jesus ministry according to Mark 5 Jesus was doing much of the same healing the sick setting the demoniac free and having the entire region come to Him. The dead were raised and then He headed to Peter, Andrew and Philips hometown of Bethsaida. **They are all tired and exhausted and to top it off the Jews want to Kill Jesus. According to Mark 6 they had not even had time to eat!**

Jesus invited them '***Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while***' Mark 6:30. But that is not what happens and this is where we pick up Jesus and His disciples in John 6:1-14.

Read this in context....

Get to John 6 and it is almost that Jesus is Harsh....

Lets get some Rest boys....

Now go 'Man Up'

The longer I meditated – Prayed and Studied into this text I was struck by this message...this was Provision in the Place of Rest!

- Not just a Sunday School story about a boy who shared his lunch....
- The boy is not even the center of the story!

Jesus feeds thousands of men women boys and girls.....from the Resource of Heaven

- Not by 'doing more'
- But allowing His friends to experience **Kingdom Provision from the Place of Rest!**

The Passover was near:

- This was supposed to be a time when every good Jew would give themselves to prepare - normally they would take about 30 days to prepare and give attention. It was a normal rhythm of Rest for every Jew.
- Again here is the backdrop - Jesus just invited them Mark 6:30 come with Me to a secluded place you need a rest.

And the secret is simply this Christ in you!
Yes, Christ in you bringing with Him the hope of all the glorious things to come.

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Mark tells us that people RAN to follow where Jesus was going!

- It was out of control!
- Hundreds - now thousands from every little village and hamlet in northern Galilee.

Now I want you to slow down and enter into John 6

- Jesus who has not had time to eat and barely rest comes to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (near Bethsaida)
- A large crowd followed Him vs 2....
- vs 3 *Then Jesus went up on the Mountain and there **He sat down.....with His disciples.***

Jesus wants His friends to experience a Kingdom sized solution:

- But first He is deliberately allowing them to be surrounded....
- By a problem that NONE of them had ever experienced or been confronted with....

Vs 4 (**we have 15,000 people staring at us**) *Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him (**I mean they are coming from every direction**)....and (Jesus) said to Philip... 'Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?'*

- **Why Philip?** Well we are close to his home town of Bethsaida.....so Jesus invites them to consider what does a solution look like...

1. Human Provision – what can Human provision do?

- Luke 9:12 the disciples plead with Jesus.... '*send the crowd away*'....
- In fact in Mark 6:37 Mark records Jesus as saying.... '*you give them something to eat*'
- Matthew records....Jesus saying Matthew 14 - '*don't send them away*'
- Now again why did He do that?
 - Well they had just been to their hometown and they had arranged to have a boy bring them something to eat.
 - Not a lunch for a boy: 5 loaves and 2 fish? This is before the days of ordering Super Size!
 - **It would not have been a feast but it was enough for Jesus and the twelve.**
 - **5 loaves and 2 fish.**

Now Jesus is either being hard on them or He is inviting them to consider the puny weak reality of attempting to lean on human wisdom and strength!

- Yet the only world they had known or lived in was a world where needs were met by human power, wisdom and production....
- **Oh wait a minute that is the world we live in - in the west.**
- **A place where we have become convinced that humanity can meet most every need.**

But Jesus gives His friends this blessed gift.....

Here is the gift.....

- **A Problem so big that none of their resource could possibly meet....**

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- Philip tries to give perspective....this would be like 6 months of working mans wages.....**Jesus this is beyond us.....really!**

Jesus gives His friends the opportunity to embrace their

- Own inadequacy ...
- We aren't enough -
- We don't have enough....the resources are not even near us...we are in a desolate place.....

Now Andrew is trying to being the voice of reason....

- Here is this young lad...
- Mark records Jesus asking....'*how many loaves do you have?*'
- **But he only has enough for us John 6:9 ...*what are these for so many people.....***

Its food but its nothing....compared to the need.....

- **Jesus all we have is NOT sufficient for the need!**
- **One of the greatest gifts of God in our life is to bring us to places and times when we become profoundly aware that nothing in our humanity – individually or corporately can meet the need of the moment!**

I used to hear Missions taught with this exact bent.....

- If we can get enough money, enough men and the right method we can do the job of world evangelism.....but it was never intended to operate on human strength wisdom and resource.
- **But in God and God alone!**

Beloved as we consider the state of our nation the state of the world in this hour the overwhelming need of men and women in this hour - Often all too often we find ourselves evaluating the possibilities....

- America has gone to far.....
- Its time to stock up on Beans - Bullets and wait it out....
- **Beloved we have been created to live in one of the most incredible moments of human history...**
 - **but it was and never will be dependant upon Human resource!**

OH the gift to be brought face to face with the crushing weight of what we cannot possibly change by our human strength.....

- Personally
- Corporately.....

Jesus this is all I have.....

- 5 loafes and 2 Fish.....
- We need Several Semi's of food to just feed these people.....

The kindest thing we can do is send them away....but Jesus does what is counterintuitive.....

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2. Watch how Jesus lives in Kingdom Provision from the Place of Rest!

Jesus second Sentence.....

Have them sit down.....

Now can you feel the anxiety rising...?

- Can you hear the internal talk?
- Jesus we just told you we DONT have any bread and there isn't anything for miles.....
- We just told you we don't have the resource or connections to make anything happen.....

Jesus does not hold a committee meeting - He does not collaborate....

Have the people sit down vs 10

- Remember that Mark records that Jesus took them to this Mountainside to '*rest*' and get away to a secluded place.....??
- **Jesus this is not peaceful or restful.....**

Beloved I want you to see this -

- **Jesus was revealing that His ministry in His humanity was not dictated by the need, demand or pressure....John 5 – but by His Father!**
- **He instructs them to do what He is doing.....Sitting.....resting!**

Now lets go back a few verses in

John 5:10 ...the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

- **Have them sit - do what I am doing - I am resting**

Jesus does NOT as some have attempted to communicate say now you know what if you cry out.....

- your Father will feed you.....
- **Sit down - rest.....**

Jesus takes their lunch - *looks heavenward* Mark 6:41.....He is watching what His Father is doing.....

- after He had given thanks He begins to distribute the food.....
- John does not tell us that He did this standing....but sitting.....relaxed.....

He is simply doing what His Father is doing.....in THAT moment....providing

- **God was being who He is....God our Provider!**

IE – Think about this for a moment – Resting in your Fathers arms....

Literal place – No distance

Feel His movement, Hear his voice through his chest – anticipate his movement.....

In that Moment the Father is speaking and moving.....and He is sharing from the heart of the Father.....

So 2 things happen here -

- 1 - the disciples **release** their lunch to Jesus....
- 2 - **Jesus looks to His father and begins to share His lunch....and the Kingdom of**

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Heaven from the place of Rest.....the adequacy and abundance of His Father ...

Result of Kingdom Provision?

- Every man woman boy and girl is fed....
- Not from the accomplishment of humanity or result of brilliance and strategy.
- **But the Abundance of the place of resting in the His Father!**

Oh my goodness!

Do you see this - Kingdom Provision came when the disciples released their lunch and rested in the Father.

3. Result - Evidence of The Fathers Provision.

Heaven marked not just by adequacy but by abundance!

- Not just feeding 15,000 but 12 baskets of fragments.....
-can I get a 'to go' box?

God did something in such a way there was NO mistake....this was the Kingdom in their midst.

Beloved as I began to press into this text in prayer....

I hope you see the invitation of the Father for this hour individually and corporately?

- **Who will we trust in this hour?**
- **Human ability, wisdom and ability....**

The invitation?

- Come away and rest in My Father!
- Finding our needs fully met in Him and Him alone!

Beloved the Leadership of Jesus in the Kingdom is OFTEN counterintuitive....

Jesus said you are going to do Greater things....

- Oh my goodness maybe I am the only one who has imposed my weak revelation on those passages.....
- Greater things....bigger, better, more gifting, more ability....more anointing....

**Greater things....in the place of Resting in the
Lavish - adequacy and Abundance of the Kingdom beloved!**

We have a Father who is still speaking today for every need!

- **And watch this - He multiples what we put in His hands.....**
- limitations are not set by man

The food He gives is the bread of life - John 6:35 *I am the bread of life...*

This beloved is the work of God....to believe the One He sent - John 6:29

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