

November 2015 – (dot)Stewardship



Thankful for What I Have

There is only one miracle story that is told by all four Gospels. Do you remember what it is?

It's not the healing of Lazarus, or Jesus walking on water or calming the storm. Here's a clue: since this is Thanksgiving week think—big meal.

The miracle told by the four Gospel writers is biggest meal in the New Testament (Bigger than any of your

thanksgiving spreads—although no turkeys were involved.). It's when Jesus took a boy's lunch and catered a fish and bread feast for 5,000 hungry men and their families.

All four Gospels say something similar to John when he wrote: "Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish." (John 6:11).

Notice what Jesus did. He gave thanks for the miracle before the miracle occurred.

Notice what He didn't do. None of the Gospel writers say that Jesus asked for anything. He simply gave thanks. For instance Jesus didn't ask the Father for enough food to feed the entire town of Davison, Michigan (population 5,173) or asking for a grocery store truck to breakdown in the neighborhood. He doesn't even pray for a "manna from heaven" redo. No requests. None. He simply gives thanks for what He has. Jesus gave thanks for the little bit, and God multiplied it until there was more than enough. An argument could be made that the difference between 12 baskets of leftovers (burp) and 4,999 meals too few was a prayer of thanksgiving.

So often people focus on what they don't have. Jesus didn't do that. He didn't pray, "O God, what are we going to do? We are 4,999 meals short. We are in big trouble." Instead, He was grateful for the five biscuits and two little fishes and prayed something like: "O God thank you for this generous boy and his lunch." Jesus wasn't focused on the 4,999 meals he didn't have; He was focused on the one meal He did have.

That's how I want to be—giving thanks for what God has provided and trusting Him for anything that might be lacking. I tell people all the time—God knows what I need, when I need it. I can trust Him! You can too!

This Thanksgiving be thankful for all that you have—whether it's great or small. Be thankful. And trust God for what you don't have—be faithful.

Pastor Rob Prince is the lead pastor at Flint Central Nazarene Church. He is author of the book, "[Chronic Pain](#)" from Beacon Hill Press. You can follow Pastor Rob at his [blog](#) or Twitter [@pastorrobrince](#) .



On an Island with God

Meet Danilo and Emily Aguilar, missionaries serving in Ponta Delgada, the Azores Islands, Portugal since September of 2014. The World Evangelism Fund is making a huge difference in remote areas that may feel isolated from the world around them. You can share the Aguilar's story and other resources available to your church for the 2015 World Evangelism Fund Thank Offering at the link below

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Quotes: Billy Graham



"When thanksgiving is filled with true meaning and is not just the formality of a polite 'thank you,' it is the recognition of dependence."