

FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD AND TWO FISH



(Matthews 6:1-14)

The Jewish Passover was approaching when a crowd of people seeing what YAHSHUA had done in reference to miracles, followed Him. Testing Philip, one of His disciples, YAHSHUA, aware of the people's need, asked him a question: "Where are we to buy bread, so that all these people may eat?" Although Philip failed the Lord with his answer, he was one of YAHSHUA'S faithful followers to the day he died. He was from Bethsaida, where Peter and his brother were. Bethsaida was located northwest of the Sea of Galilee. He was the one who introduced YAHSHUA to Nathanael. The Bible says that he sought and found Nathanael to tell him all about what he believed about YAHSHUA: We have found the One Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote about- YAHSHUA from

Nazareth, the [legal] son of Joseph! (John 1:45). He not only had knowledge of Scriptures, but also believed YAHSHUA to be the One Who was to come. On another occasion, when some Greeks wanting to see YAHSHUA, they came to Philip (John 12:20-21). Eager to know the "Father" he asked YAHSHUA: Lord, show us the Father."

According to Wikipedia, Philip was born in 5 AD and died 80 AD in Hierapolis, Turkey. According to tradition he was a missionary to Asia and was crucified possibly upside down. He might have failed the test set before him at that time, but that was not an indication of his devotion to the Lord in the future. There was a reason why YAHSHUA directed the question to him, and not to all of His disciples. He has singled him out for a divine appointment. There is a significant meaning in every singularity of events YAHSHUA presented. Here YAHSHUA was perhaps telling Philip wherever he goes to share His broken body, his needs will be provided supernaturally, or perhaps He was asking Philip how are you going to share the Gospel (His broken body –the Living Bread) to the famished world. Andrew introduced a little boy to the picture with a solution for the problem. Five loaves and two fish, it's all there is. That was a little boy's lunch, which he willingly gave it to the Lord. But what was it to feed over 5,000 people asked Andrew. He presented a solution without believing the miracle that was about to be executed. YAHSHUA, however, was listening. First, He commanded that the disciples organize the people to receive the miracle He was about to perform to bless them.

Five loaves and two fish was all YAHSHUA needed to feed the multitude. The "little boy" had to be willing to give them up otherwise that would not have been available for YAHSHUA to perform that miracle. Although that did not seem much to the disciples and anyone else, even to him, he knew that YAHSHUA could make it work.

YAHSHUA'S compassion for the people was visible in His perception of the people's need. He asked Philip, Where are we to buy bread, so that all these people may eat? This question has a double meaning. Had Philip and Andrew perceived, they would have had understood the question in its entirety. YAHSHUA here presented to Philip not only the people's physical need but also the spiritual need for the Living Bread. He well knew that in that deserted place, bread would not be found to feed not even a few, much less a multitude of over 5,000 people.

Philip failed the test, so did Andrew. But the “little boy” did not. Had he thought like Andrew did, he would not have given his lunch away. His mother had no idea when she prepared that lunch, it was going to feed a multitude of over 10,000 people. What can our Lord YAHSHUA do with the availability of what we have, no matter how small and insignificant it might seem is unknown unless we give it to Him.

In Mark 12:42-44 we read the story of a poverty-stricken widow who gave in two copper mites (the smallest of coins), which together make half of a cent to the temple treasury. And He (YAHSHUA) called His disciples and said to them, truly and surely I tell you, this widow, poverty-stricken, has put in more than all those contributing to the treasury, for they all threw in out of their abundance; but she, out of her deep poverty, has put in everything that she had- all she had on which to live. This widow gave all her sustenance away to the Lord. Like the “little boy,” she was blessed in the end. Although, there is nothing registered concerning the outcome of her love for and faith in God.

When YAHSHUA took the loaves, He thanked YAHWEH for them. In that prayer of thanksgiving, there was a power beyond human imagination - power to multiply those five loaves to thousands of loaves to satisfy the crowd which represented the today's hungry world for God. Jews and Gentiles both had come to be spiritually fed, but YAHSHUA saw their physical need also and right then He performed the miracle that touched everyone who had come. They were not only witnesses of the miracle, but now they became partakers of it, too. The crowd saw Him for Who He was and wanted to make Him king. Some perceived Him to be “the Prophet who was to come” prophesied in Deuteronomy 18:15, 18). He, however, withdrew again to the hillside by Himself alone (John 6:14-15).

The “little boy's” life was filled with awe seeing his five loaves and two fish being multiplied! I can only imagine what was like for him. “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” in the words of our Lord YAHSHUA (Acts 20:35). Paul said, He who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously will also reap generously and with blessings. Let each one as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (II Cor. 9:7-8). I do think that YAHWEH smiled when that “little boy” gave his lunch to YAHSHUA for such use. Countless lives were blessed right before his eyes. That's greater

blessing than if he had kept his lunch only for himself, for the law of giving bears multiplied fruit back to the one who gives. YAHSHUA so told His disciples: give and will be given to you; good measure, pressed down shaken together, and running over will they pour into the bosom. For with the measure you deal out [with the measure you use when you confer benefits on others, it will be measured back to you (Luke 6: 38).

Solomon says he who gives to the poor will not want (Prov. 28:27a). Poverty is everywhere around us. It exists, in part, because of the greediness of men. The poor, YAHSHUA said, will always be among us (Matt. 26:11). Do you have an extra to share? Give it away! What benefit will you have in holding to things someone else might need? None. None whatsoever. A rich man, in one of the parables told by YAHSHUA, was considered a fool, for he gathered much only for himself. But God said to him, You fool! This very night they will demand your soul of you; and all the things that you have prepared, whose will they be? So, (YAHSHUA continued), it is with the one who continues to lay up and hoard possessions for himself and is not rich to God (Luke 12:20-21).

Paul, in his letter to Timothy, advised him concerning the rich people: as for the rich in this world, charge them not to be proud and arrogant and contemptuous of others, nor to set their hopes on uncertain riches, but on God, who richly and ceaselessly provides us with everything for enjoyment. [Charge them] to good, to be rich in good works, to be liberal and generous of heart, ready to share. In this way laying up for themselves a good foundation for the future, so that they may grasp that which is life indeed (I Tim. 6:17-19).

My friend, don't wait until you become rich to share with others. That will never happen if you fall in love with your riches. Give of what you have now and your reward will be great in this world and in the world to come!

THINK ABOUT IT!