

## Five and Two

The feeding of the 5000 by Jesus is a miracle just waiting to take its place in the modern world. It's all about putting others first, giving people the thing they need most, and that thing is the miraculous presence of Jesus himself,

Seizing the opportunity to do something which points to heaven is a worthy task. Connecting with the five loaves and two fishes, and the hearts which were transformed by them, is the way it happens.

This past Sunday, I decided to try a little experiment during the sermon. Seeding a moment with five and two dollars, I asked the congregation to come up with what they could to begin a new ministry called "*Five and Two*." Someone left with a good more than ten times that amount to give to a person in need, and a new ministry called "*Five and Two*" begins. Taking the gospel directly to the world is the way Jesus wants us to do it.

Ronald Reagan was all about stepping forward and taking responsibility for change. "To sit back hoping that someday, some way," he writes, "someone will make things right is to go on feeding the crocodile, hoping he will eat you last - but eat you he will."

So in our quest, the devil is the crocodile, and he travels in some of our most familiar places. Work, recreation, society, and faith need the things that God wants to do through us, and he wants us to do it right now. Do not delay in what God wants you to do.

To continue our food metaphor, let us turn to Gina Gershon, the actress. "Feeding," she writes, "is a very important ritual for me. I don't trust people who don't like to eat."

And eat we must. Spiritual food makes the *five and two* disciple strong and fruitful. When we go to church, when we feed on God's word, and when we eat the bread of life who is Jesus Christ himself, we get inspiration and ideas to feed others eternal life.

We must chose wisely what we feed our children as well, something with meaning. Most parents give them a healthy diet in today's world, and choose wisely. But if they do not get spiritual food on a regular basis, they get a steady diet of what the world wants them to have, and it rarely breeds character or faith.

So, dear reader, use wisely the time that God has given us to see where the "*Five and Two*" ministry may take us. Look for Jesus to do marvelous things. Expect miracles, great things out of impossible moments. Burn bright. Live, don't just exist. And as we do, we will not be disappointed. In fact, we too will have many baskets left over.

“I would rather be ashes than dust!” wrote Jack London. “I would rather that my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry-rot. I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet. The function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days trying to prolong them. I shall use my time.”

Finally, listen to the teacher, God’s Holy Spirit, as he teaches. We do not have to wonder if God speaks. He speaks every day. What we must do is to stop and listen to the thing God is telling us in our heart of hearts. We must listen to the voice that lifts us up. We should listen for higher thoughts, divine directions, and see how to do things which leave an indelible mark of faith on this world in which live.

*There is a voice inside of you  
That whispers all day long,  
‘I feel this is right for me,  
I know that this is wrong.’  
No teacher, preacher, parent, friend  
Or wise man can decide  
What’s right for you—just listen to  
The voice that speaks inside. ~ Shel Silverstein*

If we do listen to Jesus who fed the 5000 on that Galilee mountainside two thousand years ago, we will be amazed. If we sit there and receive the bread and fish of faith he offers us, we will see the inexhaustible supply of blessings God has for his people.

We will begin to see Jesus not as someone who feeds our stomachs, but as God who can save us from our sins and take us to heaven. We see Jesus not just as a human being, but as the God and Lord he came to earth to be.

So, dear reader, take a look at the feeding of the 5000 in any of the four gospels in a new way. Discover how God can use you as one of his disciples in a miracle moment. And let Jesus show you who he really is!