

“A Dozen Sent, a Multitude Fed!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. Share about German Cable TV interview last week. [Thanks for your graciousness]

2. **A DOZEN SENT! (1-11)**

- 2.1. **SENDING!** (1-5)
- 2.2. Now Jesus sends them out to do what they had seen Him do.
- 2.2.1. **Q: Ever have someone represent you?** That’s risky! {maybe your child, a friend, a lawyer}
- 2.3. (1) **Power & authority** – “**Power** is the ability to do something; **authority** is the right to do it!”¹
- 2.4. (2) Was **their work** to cast out demons? And to heal the sick? **No!**
- 2.4.1. He **didn’t** send them out to **cast out demons**. He **didn’t** send them out to **heal diseases** (all this was incidental). They were sent out to **preach the kingdom of God!**
- 2.4.2. He sent them to preach what he preached. What John the Baptist preached.
- 2.4.3. They were sent to declare its **availability** to all men.
- 2.5. (3) **This was no vacation, they were to travel light & live by faith!**
- 2.5.1. Their only wealth was their **message**, their **power**, their **authority**, & the fact that **they represented Him!**²
- 2.6. (5) **Jews** would shake the *ritually impure dust* of a **Gentile city** from their feet upon leaving it & returning to the land of Israel. (i.e. they had no fellowship w/them)
- 2.6.1. Here, Jesus disciples are doing this to other Jews, symbolizing their refusal of **the Kingdom of God** & consequent refusal to be part of **the genuine Israel.**³
- 2.7. **WORKING!** (6-9)
- 2.8. They went! – The details are obviously unimportant. (interesting, no stats!)
- 2.9. **Herod Antipas** was the son of Herod the Great. Jesus latter calls him “*that fox*”.
- 2.9.1. **Tetrarch** (lit. “4 ruling”) his area was Galilee & Perea(4bc-39ad).
- 2.9.2. **See Lk. 23:6-12** for the **sad scene** when Jesus & Herod finally meet.

¹ Warren Wiersbe; Expository Outlines on the NT.

² G.Campbell Morgan; pg.120

³ Jewish NT Commentary.

- 2.10. **RETURNING!** (10,11)
- 2.11. They reported to Jesus all they had done. (debriefing)
- 2.12. Rest was needed, but he **received them & spoke to them regarding the Kingdom of God, & healed those who needed it.**
- 2.13. **He desires us to: Be with Him; then Go for Him; then Return unto Him!**

3. **A MULTITUDE FED! (12-17)**

- 3.1. **Q:** What is God trying to communicate about Himself? The fact that He can feed a bunch of people? Jesus is greater than His disciples?
 - 3.1.1. **Q:** What's the underlying message? Is there one? **Jn.6:22; 26,27; 33-35**
 - 3.1.2. So, the miracle was a **symbol** of our Lord's **higher spiritual work.**
 - 3.1.3. Jn.6:63 **"the words that I speak to you are **spirit**(ual) & they are **life.**"**
- 3.2. **[1] Deep Hunger!** (12)
 - 3.2.1. The people have **journeyed far** into the **desert!**
 - 3.2.2. They are **weary & weak** through lack of food.
- 3.3. **[2] Man in himself can't satisfy this Deep Hunger!** (13-14a)
- 3.4. The disciples are helpless & request Jesus to **"Send the multitude away"** & admit **"we have very, very little to give them"**.
 - 3.4.1. **Ok, we send them away...but where?**
 - 3.4.2. After the Bread of life discourse Jesus asked Peter, **"do you also want to go away?"** To which he answered, **"Lord to whom should we go? You have the words of eternal life!"** (Jn.6:67,68)
- 3.5. Putting the accounts together we see: **The 12** said **"send them away"**; **Philip** worried about the budget; & **Andrew** started w/what they had & brought it to Jesus!
- 3.6. It is an **absolute impossibility** of providing anything to meet this deep spiritual need...**except through Christ.**
- 3.7. The **needs today** are overwhelming. We realize our task to fill them is almost **beyond imagination.**
- 3.8. **[3] Only The Father can satisfy this Deep Hunger!** (16b)
- 3.9. **He blessed & broke them.**
- 3.10. **"The secret of today for the task of today** is that service is not measured by **human ability** but by **Divine enabling.**"
- 3.11. **[4] The Bread of Life Satisfies!** (17a)
- 3.12. **Jn.6:33-37.**

- 3.13. We also see that he is always concerned with both **physical & spiritual** needs.
- 3.14. “Twas **spring-time** when He blessed the bread, Twas **harvest** when he brake.”⁴
- 3.15. **[5] The Bread of Life is always desirous of making us Co-Workers! (13,14)**
- 3.15.1. “you give them something to eat”; “make them sit down in groups of 50”.
- 3.15.2. Co-Workers:**
- 3.15.3. Ps.25:14 “The secret of the LORD *is* with those who fear Him, And **He will show them His covenant.**”
- 3.15.4. In Gen.6:13 **God** choose to work now through **Noah** in judgment of the earth.
- 3.15.5. Amos 3:7 “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”
- 3.15.6. Jn.15:15 “No longer do I call you **servants**, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; **but** I have called you **friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”
- 3.15.7. 2 Cor.6:1 “As **God’s fellow workers** we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.”
- 3.16. He **does** the miracle, they just **distributed** the blessing.
- 3.16.1. Christ is looking for clean hands that he can fill!
- 3.17. He **could have** worked w/o us, **but instead** He has been **pleased to permit us to carry His Bread** to this world!
- 3.17.1. **Remember** the **Helm Bakery trucks** delivering fresh bread & donuts? The aroma, the freshness of product.
- 3.17.2. If you weren’t here in the 60’s, how about **Albertsons** when the **French Bread** comes out of the oven?
- 3.17.3. Sharing Christ should be **like** holding a **fresh baked pie** under someone’s nose for a minute!
- 3.17.3.1. They should walk away with **smelling** His aroma, **feeling** His warmth, & **wanting** more! 😊
- 3.18. The worth of Christian work is in exact proportion to the devotion of God’s people.
- 3.18.1. Christ must be **all in all** or **not at all**; if he is not **Lord of all** he is not **Lord at all.** (Griffith Thomas)
- 3.19. **[6] The Bread of Life uses Our Means & adds His Power! (13,16)**
- 3.20. In both Testaments God most always uses **already existing agencies** & then **supernatural power** is added.
- 3.20.1. The miracle is **not a new creation** then, but simply the use of **available resources** as a channel of His Divine power.

⁴ G.Campbell Morgan; pg.121

- 3.21. An important lesson: No situation is impossible if you **take what you have**; **give it to God w/thanking**; & **share it w/others**.
- 3.22. **Our Means, His Power:**
- 3.22.1. **Moses ordinary Shepherds Staff** – Ex.4:2,3 “Then the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” “A staff,” he replied. The LORD said, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake,”
- 3.22.2. **David’s 1 Rock** –became a laser-guided missile w/pinpoint accuracy!
- 3.22.3. **Elijah’s Mantle/Cloak** – became filled w/a double portion of God’s Spirit when passed off unto Elisha.
- 3.22.4. **Elisha & the Widow from local Bible College** – 2 Kings 4:1-7
3.22.4.1. What do you have in the house? - Nothing in the house but a jar of oil!
- 3.22.5. **Samson found an ordinary donkey Jawbone** – but it became a (WMD) **Weapon of Mass Destruction** in his hand. (killed 1000 Philistines)
- 3.22.6. An ordinary _____ became a supernatural _____!
3.22.6.1. **Size never determines power!**
3.22.6.2. John adds, “small fishes” & tells us it was a little lads lunch!
3.22.6.2.1. Yet, **“little is much if God is in it!”**
- 3.22.7. **Today, he might want to use your?** (vehicle, your pocket change, your time waiting in line to strike up a conversation, your...whatever you’ll offer Him?)
- 3.23. The Lord today will take us **as we are** & will utilize **what we have**, for His glory!⁵
- 3.23.1. We just have to bring **what we possess** to our Master.
If we don’t, **“Loaves unblest are loaves un-multiplied!”**
- 3.24. **Illustration:** In **St. Nicholas Church Tower** in Amsterdam is a keyboard struck by **wooden gloves**. In that room it only sounds like clatter & clanging. Yet over the city floats the most exquisite music & men at work pause to listen.
- 3.25. **[7] Plenty of “This Bread from Heaven” to go around still!** (17b)
- 3.26. **“They all ate & were filled & 12 baskets of the leftovers fragments were taken up”**
- 3.26.1. Enough & to spare (still true today!)
- 3.26.2. **His Compassion, Capability, & Care** – is beyond our **need**, beyond our **deserving**, & beyond our **comprehension**.
- 3.27. Christians have what the world needs, because Christ Himself is behind every word He says. (**Jn.6:6**)
- 3.28. It **started** with **his 12** carrying His bread to the Jews; & **ends** with **us** taking what was left over, to the Gentiles. And yes, there is still plenty of him to go around!

⁵ Griffith Thomas; pg.156

- 3.29. Much of the church today believes Christianity is the story of “*the multitude that loafs & fishes.*” 😊
- 3.29.1. No, He desires to **send us forth** to **fill & satisfy** hungry souls!
- 3.30. He is saying to the Church today, “**Give them to eat!**”
- 3.30.1. The hungry masses are dying of starvation because they lack the Bread of Life. **Give them to eat!**