

FULLNESS

EXODUS 4:2 Then the Lord asked him, “What is that in your hand?” “A shepherd’s staff,” Moses replied.

On the fifth part of the series, *Fullness*, Pastor Ta talked about how Jesus miraculously fed more than 20,000 people out of a young boy’s lunch of five loaves of bread and two fish in John 6:5-15. Can you imagine trying to feed a group this size—especially since there are no supermarkets, fast food restaurants, or sufficient funds to even begin to buy enough food? This is the dilemma facing the disciples in John 6. In verse 5, Jesus asked Philip where to buy bread to feed the people as a way to test his faith. In verse 6, we see that the situation does not cause Jesus a tinge of anxiety, because He knows all along what He is going to do. Philip commented that even if there were stores to buy bread from, it would still take a ridiculous amount of money to feed such a crowd. No one could even imagine how it can possibly be done. Philip even thought that simply sending the crowd home might be best (Matthew 14:15).

This is a very challenging moment in the lives of the disciples, one that teaches them some very important lessons. It is often in big challenges where our Lord performs His greatest miracles. To top that, Jesus’ primary vehicle to perform His amazing miracle was a young boy’s packed lunch. It was when the boy gave Jesus what he had when a crowd of 20,000 people were fed, with excess of 12 baskets of bread.

Pastor Ta explained some important lessons out of that story in relation to experiencing the fullness that God wants for us.

Firstly, **the boy was at the right place, at the right time.** The boy was in the presence of Jesus, receiving the word of Jesus. He was in the best context for a miracle. If we really want to experience the miraculous provision and abundance of Jesus, we must choose to be in His presence and always ready to receive His Word. As Pastor Jon taught us at the beginning of the series, “*God said it, we believe it.*” When God speaks, we receive it by faith, especially at times when our minds, our realities or even our culture disagree with what He said.

Second, even though he had very little, **he gave his all to Jesus, not leaving anything for himself.** The selfless act of the boy became the precursor to the miracle. From the boy’s hand, Jesus took the bread and fish, and lifted them up in thanksgiving. It wasn’t much, but they still chose to give thanks what they had. Can you imagine how it happened? Five loaves of bread and fish being broken and distributed, but the loaves and fish didn’t shrink in size until after everyone has eaten. One of Pastor Ta’s main points is, *little becomes much when placed in the hands of Jesus.* It started when the food were placed in the hands of Jesus.

One of Pastor Ta’s closing challenges came from Exodus 4:2, where God asked Moses, “What is that in your hand?” It was a shepherd’s staff which was meant to protect himself, guide his sheep and help him stand. What once was a simple piece of wood, became an instrument of the many miracles God did through Moses. **When we take what we have in our hands and give it to God, it becomes more than enough for what He wants to do in our lives and for others.** Like Moses, what are you keeping and holding in your hands to protect yourself, guard what you have and help you stand? Perhaps it’s time to give it to God and let Him use it for His purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- New York Mission Trip (November 8-16)
- Worship/Tech/Welcome Team Night (October 15)
- Dream Team Convergence (October 29)

PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- Mosaic’s immediate and distant future vision and plans.
- Fullness in every area to be experienced by everyone at Mosaic.

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

Christ uses inadequate people who surrender what they have in their lives for His purposes in mighty ways. God does wonder through our weakness. He does not select “strong” people so that He can use their strengths; He chooses weak people so that He can demonstrate His power through their weakness (1 Corinthians 1:27-29; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9). He gives us tasks which we do not have the strength to do ourselves, because He gives us His strength to carry them out.

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Question:

What would you say has been your greatest accomplishment in life, so far?

Question:

What do you think are your greatest strength and greatest weakness?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

JOHN 6:5-15

Question:

In verses 5-6, Jesus asked Philip to “test” him. Why does God test us and what does it do to us? (James 1:2-3)

Question:

Have you ever questioned God’s Word to you? What was the occasion and how did God prove Himself right to you?

Question:

On one occasion Jesus turned water into wine; but in this instance, Jesus did not turn the fish into steak nor the bread into mashed potatoes. He multiplied the bread and the fish. What spiritual truths and practical faith application can we learn from this?

EXODUS 4:1-4

Verse 1 begins with an excuse. What was God calling Moses to do?

Question:

What might God be calling you to do and what are your excuses?

Question:

Verse 2 sounds like a simple question, but it’s actually a challenge. What are the practical usages and symbolic images of the shepherd’s staff?

Question:

What gifts, experiences, training and possessions you might have that could be useful to serve God in the church?

Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

Question:

In verse 7-8, we find a pragmatist/realist in Philip who expresses the impossibility in their situation to feed 20,000 people. Then we have Andrew who is a realist, presenting to Jesus the only food they found. In your leadership, are you like Philip or are you like Andrew? When should the element of faith come in (Hebrews 11:6)?

Question:

What tests may you be going through today (or this season in your life)? What might God be teaching you through these tests?

Question:

What do you think is the opposite of doubt, and why do you think so?

How can you continue to win over your doubts as a disciple of Jesus?

Question:

What are you believing God to do in the following areas of your life?

- Family
- Finances
- Faith
- Future

Questions:

What do you have in your hands that God might be asking you to hand over so you can experience the miracle that you need in those areas?