

STRANGER THINGS IN THE BIBLE

The Kids Lunch

I heard this hilarious account about John 6 by Chuck Swindoll, a radio preacher. Chuck recounted how the disciples and Jesus were confronted with feeding 5000 people. There was Jesus watching the people pour in to hear him. I suspect it was near lunch or dinner time. Jesus asked his disciples what they needed to feed them all. These men were stunned. One reported that it would take a half a year's wages to buy enough food. Then smarty pants Peter offer them a kid's lunch. I laugh when I think about Chuck Swindoll saying in a kid's voice "hey, that's my lunch!"

Yes, Peter took some kids lunch and offered it to Jesus. It was just like Peter too. He is the bold and gutsy one. The one who walked on water. He tailed Jesus to the Jail when Jesus was arrested. Peter challenged Jesus about dying. Yes, this was Peter. Was he mocking Jesus again? Here Jesus, take these from this kid because it's all we have. I am wondering if Peter was saying the kid had more than they did. "*Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many,*" Was it smart-alecky Peter chiding Jesus for being so silly. Come on Jesus how can we feed them? In another account they asked Jesus to send them home.

Then we have Jesus asking them on purpose. It says "*When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"*" 6 *He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do."*

Jesus wanted to know how they would respond. I suspect that Jesus did this a bunch. Jesus knew what religious rulers had in their heart before they accused him. Jesus knew what Judas was going to do before he betrayed him. The Gospel is trying to paint Jesus as God. Yet, I think these actions go in-line with God. The Father in heaven knew pharaoh's heart. He knew that the people wanted a flashy king Saul. This is Jesus being Jesus.

We also have the disciples. They came from getting food and saw Jesus talking to a Samaritan woman at a well. It says they were surprised. Jesus asked them to fish on the wrong side of the boat and when they caught so much, they were shocked. Here they can see with their eyes all the people in the crowd. How can we feed so many? Yet, these men had been with Jesus the whole time. How many miracles does it take to be a believer? These men could hear and see Jesus but they did not get the kingdom of heaven and its power and majesty.

In verse 26 of John 6 it says "*Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs, I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill."*" Jesus was talking to people that did not understand how Jesus got across the water. They too, did not see the kingdom of heaven at hand. This verse says it all. The disciples and the crowds only saw what they wanted to. They loved the miracles and teachings of Jesus. I suppose Jesus could have been a popular rock star touring the land. They wanted the show. They wanted to be served. Yet, Jesus says you are looking for Him for all the wrong reasons.

This is a stranger things story because he took a few loaves of bread and fish and passed them around the hungry crowds. Imagine Jesus telling the disciple to "just" pass them! I could see the disciples shrugging their shoulders in absurdity. Yeah, this is going to work. It's a kid's lunch for heaven's sake. Then 20 minutes later they begin to receive the baskets back. Did one go out? How did one basket turn into two, three, all the way to twelve? "*So, they gathered them*

and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.” Again, the best part of the verse is the end. There remained the kid’s lunch.

This whole scene must have ended in silence. I wonder if Jesus smiled and lay down to take a nap. It’s like he dropped the mic. I suspect Peter turned to the boy and gave him back his lunch and said keep the change. It’s a miracle. Yet, it’s really an object lesson for the disciples and the crowd. Stop looking at what you see and what you understand. God does not work that way. We call God divine or powerful like a God. He says he can do anything. Then when were faced with impossible odds, we don’t ask the impossible God to do impossible things. Why is that? I love this story because it must have been amazing, humbling, and good. Good to see God be good. To see Jesus, have faith that they did not possess. Sometimes with God it’s right there for the taking but were looking elsewhere to receive less than we would if we had only trusted and asked.