

Fresh Start

By Jerry Bader

How Quickly We Forget

November 18, 2018

Each morning I begin my quiet time with God by first thanking Him for blessings received the day before and then I give thanks for all His blessings and name as many as I can think of. The Bible tells us to be in a constant state of gratitude to God. Remembering specific blessings is also a great way to remember that you can trust God for future needs. And it can be very easy to quickly forget His blessings. How easy? Jesus' disciples forgot on a grand scale in Matthew 15.

All four gospels record Jesus feeding a crowd of 5,000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish. It is only in Matthew and Mark that we find just one chapter later Jesus feeds 4,000 with seven loaves and "a few small fish." Much as in the story of the 5,000, it is Jesus and not His disciples who are concerned about feeding the large crowds that have gathered:

Jesus called his disciples to Him and said, I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way. Matthew 15:32

The apostles respond much the same way they did when Jesus insisted on feeding the 5,000: "Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?" These are the same 12 men who saw Him take five loaves and two fish and turn them into a bounty that fed 5,000 men (and women and children). Yet they are as perplexed in the second episode as they were in the first as to how they could possibly feed so many people. In fact, a bit later in Matthew (16:8-10), Jesus feels the need to remind the disciples of those two miracles. The same thing is often true of us.

We forget how God has provided in the past and instead wonder how we ourselves are going to solve a problem rather than trusting Him to provide. God recently provided Ramona and me with money to cover an unexpected expense. Not long after, another unexpected expense came up and God provided again. But not before we fretted a bit before turning it over to Him. So, if the 12 looked pretty clueless to you in the loaves and fish stories, ask yourself how many times in the last week you chose to first doubt God would provide in a time of need and worried instead. Go ahead, count them up; I'll wait.

The more we give thanks, the better we remember the promises God keeps. That would be all of them. Then trust Him to work faithfully in your life again.