

JESUS BLESSES THE FAITH OF ANDREW

John 6:1-15

Key verse 6:9

"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

Thanks be to the Lord for abundantly blessing the Junior Leadership Camp last week, using our next generation as ministers of the Word, setting them up as spiritual leaders like Nehemiah for the work of revival. We thank God that we were able to meet the other spirit of Caleb and Joshua, who did not let themselves be infected by murmurings and rebellion, but held fast to God's promise and motivated the Israelites to take the promised land by faith. We were encouraged not to sink into grumbling and unbelief, but to move on by faith for world mission and to raise up the young people as a great army of God.

Today's lesson is about feeding the 5000, which is the 4th miracle sign in John's gospel, and the only miracle reported in all 4 gospels. We learn through this that Jesus is the Son of God who blessed 5 barley loaves and 2 fish to feed a large crowd. Today we learn above all the faith of Andrew, who did not get into calculation and helplessness, but through faith found the possibility by bringing a child who had 5 loaves and 2 fish to Jesus. Let us learn the faith of Andrew to bring our 5 loaves and 2 fishes to Jesus so that Germany and Europe will be spiritually fed, awakened and set up as a shepherd nation for world mission.

1. Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat? (1-9)

In chapter 5 Jesus had healed a man at the pool of Bethesda who had been lying sick for

38 years. Jesus' word gave him the new strength to get up and carry his own bed. It was the wonderful work of God, clearly revealing Jesus as the Son of God. But the Jewish superiors ignored the work of God and instead criticized Jesus for breaking the Sabbath and making himself equal to God. They tried everything to discredit Jesus and even tried to kill him. Nevertheless, we see in chapter 6 that there were many people who came to Jesus regardless of the slander and threats of the superiors because they saw the signs that Jesus did.

Consider verse 1: „Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias).“ At the same time, there was a large crowd of people walking around half the lake to come to Jesus. Probably Jesus had planned to spend this day alone with his disciples. They too needed a break and spiritual restoration. But when he saw all these people, he did not react critically or dismissively. Mark 6:34 says, "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.“ Jesus had a shepherd's heart full of compassion for all these shepherdless sheep.

The people came to Jesus because they had seen the signs and found hope in Jesus. They came with their inner wounds, with their loneliness, with their self-doubt and their dependence. Some suffered under the power of sin, lust or evil spirits. Each one had

his own concern. Jesus took them in and he taught them the Word of God all day long. Jesus was their good shepherd who taught them the Word of God. God's word is the word of life. God's word is the word of truth. God's Word leads people to beatitude through faith in Christ Jesus. Jesus was their good shepherd who, with the Word of God, freed these people from the lies of Satan and all false bondage and gave them a new life. The young people on campus need a good shepherd to teach them the Word of God.

Let us know Jesus' shepherd heart and his view for the young people that he received them as they are and helped them to hear the Word of God until their souls were completely filled. Each one of us has a lot to do, such as study, work, raising children or household. But the most important thing is that we live as shepherds for our neighbor. That's why after his resurrection Jesus gave Peter only one direction: "Feed my sheep!" Let us get to know Jesus' shepherd heart in this Corona summer and live as shepherds for God's flock of sheep. Let us use the Shepherd's Heart to form one-to-one Bible study teams with the students so that they can hear God's Word, meet Jesus personally as their good shepherd and have all their soul thirst quenched in Jesus.

Let's look at verse 5: "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?" When so many people came, Jesus was eager to feed them. But he did not do this alone, but mobilized his disciples to work with him. Jesus especially wanted to help Philip to understand his shepherd heart for these people and to be needed as a shepherd for them by taking care of the practical needs of this crowd.

According to verse 6 Jesus' question was a test for Philip and Jesus already knew what he wanted to do. Philip had already experienced so much with Jesus. Now it was time for him to serve the people as a shepherd. Specifically, Jesus tested his shepherd heart to see if he was heartily

interested in the sheep and his faith in the power of Jesus.

Let us look at verse 7: "Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Philip was obviously a good mathematician who could estimate in no time at all the amount of bread needed for such a crowd and its cost. But Philip did not know Jesus. He only did calculations and then came to the conclusion that it was impossible. When he calculated, he could find no possibility and sank into unbelief. Actually Jesus had not asked if they had enough money, but where they could buy bread. Philip did not even include Jesus in his calculations. So he failed Jesus' test.

But then Andrew came forward. Andrew was not one of the prominent disciples. He had only ever stood in the second row behind his brother Simon Peter. But Andrew understood the heart of Jesus, and he sought and found a way to give men food. Let's read verse 9 together: "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Andrew searched and found the possibility in a child who had five loaves and two fish and brought all this to Jesus. Here we can learn some points from Andrew:

1) Andrew had a sense of responsibility

Actually Jesus had addressed Philip. Andrew could have remained silent. But he understood Jesus' heart for the multitude, and so he could not remain indifferent and uninvolved. Andrew had a sense of responsibility. He somehow wanted to feed these people. He began to look for a way in which they could feed this multitude.

2) Andrew was a man of opportunity

Philip only looked at what he did not have and immediately came to the conclusion: impossible. This way of thinking made him paralyzed and useless. But Andrew sought the way and looked around to see if he could find a way. When he found nothing at his place, he began to look around the crowd.

Finally he found a child carrying a packed lunch. Then he had a brilliant idea. With a broad smile he persuaded the child to bring his lunch to Jesus. Andrew was a man of opportunity.

In the 1960s, Korea was a poor third world country. Jesus gave the Great Commission to his disciples from his shepherd's heart. But at that time, many church leaders only said, "It is not possible. The Great Commission seemed to apply to rich Americans, but not to poor Koreans. But M. Samuel Lee prayed with the Great Commission. Then he found some nurses who were sent to Germany as guest workers to support their poor families. Then he found the opportunity. By faith, he brought these nurses to Jesus as 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes by setting them up as missionaries. From a human point of view it looked small and ridiculous. But God used this preciously as the foundation stone for the German and European mission. God blessed his faith so that Korea UBF has been able to send out more than 3000 missionaries for world mission to date.

3) Andrew was a man of faith

Practically speaking, the 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish were far too few to feed a large number of people. It looked naive and ridiculous to bring them to Jesus. Wouldn't Jesus laugh at him? But Andrew had faith in Jesus and in his power. By faith he brought the five loaves and two fishes to Jesus, saying: "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Andrew had faith that Jesus could do something with this small gift. He had faith that with God all things are possible.

M. Peter helped a student to have faith in God by entrusting her with a task in the work of God. But again and again he only got to hear: "I can't." But God carried her unbelief patiently and helped her again and again to learn faith in Almighty God. With Mark 9:23 "All things are possible to him who believes" she was finally even allowed to finish her studies, although her professor said that she

would not be able to do so. Now she encourages her children and many of the next generation not to remain helpless, but to bring their 5 loaves and 2 fishes to God by faith and to experience God's omnipotence.

4) Andrew was a man of prayer

Andrew brought 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish to Jesus. He said, "Here is a boy with fivesmall barley loaves and two small fish; but how far will they go among so many?" This question was his heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, this gift is so small, but can you not accept it and do something great with it?"

In the eyes of worldly men Philip seems to be wise and reasonable, while Andrew seems naive and simple-minded. But Andrew had responsibility, initiative, faith, and prayer, and in this way Jesus was able to accomplish something great.

I know a man like Andrew. He did not graduate from high school, but by faith he sought opportunity and found 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. He faithfully brings his lunch break to Jesus by going to the campus and inviting sheep. From a human point of view it looks too insignificant and ineffective. But in this way he met some young people who were waiting for a Bible teacher and who like to lead one-to-one Bible studies.

A young woman found her 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish for the young women. She invited one student first to eat, then to Bible study and finally to live together. Now this student participates with joy in the work of God.

The campus prayer together with my dear co-worker on the almost empty campus sometimes looked funny and insignificant. But God has thereby entrusted us with new sheep even in the Corona time. God works when we bring 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish to Him by faith.

2. Jesus blesses 5 loaves and 2 fishes (10-15)

Let's look at verse 10: "Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them." Jesus helped his disciples to work with him by dividing the people into groups and letting them take their places. As they worked together, the disciples were not only able to determine the exact number of men, but also to participate in the miracle of Jesus up close and personal.

Let us read verse 11 together: "Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish." Here we can see that Jesus was very happy about Andrew's faith. Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks for this gift which had been brought by faith. To Jesus this work of Andrew's faith was very precious, much more precious than two hundred silver pennies. Jesus does not work alone but always by the faith of his people.

When Jesus distributed the loaves, the incredible happened. There was enough bread for about 5000 people. John writes that Jesus did not distribute the bread sparingly, but gave everyone as much fish as they wanted. No one remained hungry, but everyone was satisfied. When Jesus blessed the 5 loaves and 2 fishes, they miraculously became food for such a large number of people. We see here that Jesus is the God of overflowing blessings.

In verse 12, Jesus sent out His disciples to collect the leftovers. They noticed that there were 12 baskets of bread left over. With human calculation, everything is always too little. But under the blessing of the Lord all is abundant. This incident shows that Jesus is the almighty creator God.

The past Junior Leadership Camp was also like 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Charles Spurgeon started preaching at 17. But we were allowed to bring our next generation, who are all under 17, to Jesus as 5 loaves and 2 fishes by working together as servants of the Word of God. God blessed this and

raised them as spiritual leaders like Nehemiah for the spiritual wall building. Last week they visited Koblenz and Mainz and built the prayer altar there, bringing their prayers as 5 loaves and 2 fishes for these pioneering works.

How can we raise 10,000 Bible teachers and bring about spiritual revival in Europe? Like Andrew, we are allowed to find 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish and bring them to Jesus by faith. Our one-to-one Bible study is often small like 5 loaves and 2 fish. But in God's eyes, a one-to-one Bible study is like a spiritual revival. One Abraham of faith is before God like a whole people. God has given us one-to-one Bible study, early morning prayer and discipleship through fellowship as our 5 loaves and 2 fish. We want to bring them to Jesus with all our heart so that He can do something great for this generation. We also want to bring the building of 3 bases as our 5 loaves and 2 fishes for the world mission. Let us give thanks to Jesus who accepts 5 loaves and 2 fishes, which we bring to Him by faith, thereby doing His mighty work in our generation.

Let us consider verses 14 and 15: „After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.“ The sign of the multiplication of bread convinced the people that Jesus must be the prophet promised by Moses. But they had a wrong idea and wanted to make Jesus their bread king. They thought that Jesus could serve them and always give them enough bread. But Jesus evaded them. He did not want human popularity or improvement of conditions. That's why he went to a mountain to pray. Jesus wished that people would accept him as the spiritual king. He hoped that they would not seek the perishable food, but would eat the imperishable food. (verse 27)

Through today's lesson, we have come to know the faith of Andrew, who was not

dependent on calculation and what he did not have, but through faith found the possibility by bringing the 5 loaves and 2 fishes of a child to Jesus. We have learned that Jesus is the God of overflowing blessings who blesses the gift we bring to Him by faith. Our one-to-one Bible study ministry, our early morning prayer and our discipleship ministry through fellowship are small and unimpressive like 5 loaves and 2 fish. But they are the expression of our faith in the Lord Almighty. Jesus wants to bless this work of faith abundantly, that we form 10,000 one-to-one Bible study teams and that the young people in Europe are spiritually resurrected as a great army of God rising up for world mission. May God give each one of us the faith of Andrew to bring our 5 loaves and 2 fish to Jesus.