

LOST: Giving from Little

Sometimes it's awkward to talk about " _____ " in church...

...and yet there are more than _____ verses in the Word that deal with money and possessions.

Malachi 3:10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

John 6:1 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Feast was near. 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?" 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" 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. 11 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. 12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. 14 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." 15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

A. the _____ of the situation...

Jn 1:2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick.

- _____ is what brought the people
- Jesus _____ the attraction
- this turns into a " _____ " for the disciples

B. the _____ for possible solutions...

1- _____ them all _____
Matt 14:15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

2- just _____
Mk 6:37 But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

3- the _____ that eats like a _____
8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

-- notice that no one says:

C. the _____ hidden in the problem...

- 1- the boy has a chance to meet someone else's _____
 - of course this comes at great initial _____ to him
 - he's the one who sets the _____ for everyone else
- 2- the crowd has a chance to _____ and _____
- 3- the disciples have a chance to _____ and _____
- 4- Jesus has a chance to _____ the Father
- 5- the Kingdom has a chance to _____

D. the _____ from the crisis...

- 1- everyone is _____
- 2- there is _____ than is needed
- 3- the _____ is saved... and presumably used for others

the big payoff...

one person's _____ in giving opens the door for corporate _____