

How to Prepare for a Miracle

Mark 6:30-44

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, April 23rd

An old hymn reflects an even older truth: “I serve a risen savior, he’s in the world today!”

How do we know that? How can others recognize Him?

I believe that we serve a miracle working God who “*Daily loads us with benefits*” (Ps. 68:19)

2 Chron. 16:9 reminds us that God is looking for people through which he can “*show himself strong.*”

How do you define a Miracle?

Webster’s defines it as “*a surprising event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency.*”

I define it as: “God’s intervention in (and/or through) our lives.”

Someday you (or someone you love) will need a miracle. (marriage, health, finances, family, etc) God allows such situations in order to reveal himself to those who trust Him and understand the principles by which He works. (James 1) Unfortunately many times we “miss” God’s miracles.

- 1) Sometimes we simply overlook them or fail to recognize them. “*Angels unawares*” (Heb 13)
- 2) Sometimes we “miss” new Miracles because we’ve been so ungrateful for past ones.
- 3) Sometimes we “Miss God’s Miracles” because we’re “disqualified” for God’s best blessings.

➤ Deut. 11:26-28 Reminds us: “*I set before you this day a blessing and a curse*”

Tragically, many choose to live under God’s curse more than His blessing.

➤ King Saul (1 Sam. 15) and King Asa (2 Chron. 16)

The miracle of the “Loaves and fish” is the only miracle recorded in each of the 4 different Gospels! (Mt 14:13–21, Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–19; John 6:1–14).

PRINCIPLES FOR MIRACLE PREPARATION:

1. **ADMIT YOU HAVE A NEED.**

A. NORMAL METHODS:

- 1) **Procrastinate.** “*and when the day was far spent.*” Vs 35 (See also Haggai 1:2-5)
- 2) **Pass the Buck.** “*Send them away.*” Vs 36
- 3) **Perspire** (worry) “*Shall we go and buy 200 pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?*” vs 37

Principle: God won’t help you until you admit you need help.

2. **ASSESS WHAT YOU HAVE TO WORK WITH.**

A. WHAT DO I HAVE? “*How many loaves have ye? Go and see.*” Vs 38 (5 Loaves & 2 fish)

- 1) They found Only 5 barley Loaves & 2 fish.
- 2) Was this all that was actually there? *Did only 1 person out of thousands bring a lunch?*
Often More is “present” than is actually “**presented**”! Hag. 2:19 “*Is the seed yet in the barn?*”

B. HOW AM I USING IT?

- 1) Example: Tabernacle offering. (Ex. 36:5-7) “*The people bring much more than enough*”
- 2) Elijah and the widow. 1 Kings 17:9 “*I have commanded a widow to sustain thee*”

Why does God start with what I have when He wants to work a miracle? Because he wants us “invested” or partnering with Him in order to stretch our faith! (1 Cor. 3:9; Jn. 6:5,6)

3. **ALLOW GOD TO USE WHAT YOU HAVE! RO. 12:1**

Jn 6:9 *"There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes"*

A. We remember this boy 2,000 years later, not because he had the best lunch, but because he was willing to give it to God!

B. His giving sparked a miracle because He gave it:

1) Willingly 2) Cheerfully 3) Immediately. 2 Cor 9:6-7 *"He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."*

C. God usually asks us to do what we can and trust Him to do what we can't.

Jn 2:7 *"fill the water pots with water... draw out...and bear to the governor"*

Mk 6:37-41 *"give ye them to eat... Sit down by companies upon the grass... set before them... divide..."*

Too often we're so focused on what we can't do...that we don't do anything!

Principle: God will use whatever I give him, *but I must do my part.*

4. **ANTICIPATE THAT GOD WILL MULTIPLY IT. VS 42,43**

Mark 6:42-44 *"they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, And they ...were about five thousand men."*

Mt. 14:21 *"And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children."*

A. They had more left than they began with!

B. What happened to the leftovers?

1) Mt. 15 he feeds 4,000 (men) with 7 baskets left over.

Mt. 16:5 says the apostles didn't take the leftovers!

Principle: Whenever I give to God, I end up getting more back. (Mal. 3:10)

(Luke 6:38) *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."*

Conclusion: While we're waiting for God to do something **For** us,
God is waiting to do something **Through** us!

People were blessed and Christ was magnified because someone was willing to give.

Every church building you see, Every Missionary that's sent, Every Ministry that occurs:
is the result of a group of people sacrificing and reprioritizing their lives
in order to partner with God.

We stand at a cross road with two paths.

1) Comfort: Enjoying the sacrifices of others.

2) Commitment: Paving the way for others to benefit from our sacrifice.

(2 Cor. 8:9) *"ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."*

God has placed us in the middle of spiritually hungry people and commands us to: "feed them!"

This will take resources that are beyond us. **THAT'S PART OF GOD'S PLAN.**

If we had all of the resources needed, we wouldn't need God. You may not have everything needed for your "Miracle", but:

➤ What do you have?

➤ Are you willing to Give it to God?

If so, then do so and Expect Him in Faith to multiply it.