

You Can Do This!

The "Break Through" Series – Part 02

Connect: Please share something impressive about your spouse that most of the people in the group do not know.

Hook: One of my (Pastor Danny) greatest fears when I began to pastor my first church, was that I would not be able to find enough sermons in the Bible. A new student in seminary and knowing very little about sermon preparation, I would be responsible for bringing a new lesson 3 times a week. I knew that within 6 months I would exhaust all there was to be said about the Bible. Those fears never materialized and week after week, for the past 36 years, God has shown me there is no limit to the truths in His word or His faithfulness to me.

Can you recount a time when you were afraid a certain resource would run out, but God provided in ways that you had not dreamed?

In Pastor Brandon's message, *"It's Time to Seize the Moment"*, he points to Nehemiah's example of taking on a task that is fraught with impossibilities. In our study today, let's look at another example where the disciples of Christ are told to do the "impossible".

Book:

Mark 6:30 The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told Him all they had done and taught. 31. Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and His apostles didn't even have time to eat. 32. So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. 33. But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. 34. Jesus saw the huge crowd as He stepped from the boat, and He had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began teaching them many things. 35. Late in the afternoon His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. 36. Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat." 37. But Jesus said, "You feed them." "With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!" 38. "How much bread do you have?" He asked. "Go and find out." They came back and reported, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish." 39. Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. 40. So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred. 41. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, He kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. 42. They all ate as much as they wanted, 43. and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. 44. A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed from those loaves! Mark 6:30-44

Look:

In our text, Christ and the disciples have a need. What was that need? What does Christ's example in this story teach us about our needs and the needs of others?

The crowd has more than one need. What were those needs?

Why did Jesus put His own comfort (rest) on the back burner?

Discuss why Jesus told His disciples, "You feed them!" What lessons would they learn from this challenge?

Since there are so many needs in the world, how do you know where to devote your time, effort, and money?

When is it right to say "no" to the demands of needy people?

How do spiritual gifts fit in with service? How do you know if God wants to use you in an area you aren't gifted in?

Are there conditions that we must meet in order to experience God's blessing? What are they?

What keeps you from believing that "You can do this"?