

God is a Multiplying God – Sept. 14, 2022

Excited by left-overs? Recall Jesus feeding 5,000 w/12 baskets leftover.

God worked thru Elisha, but miracle happened b/c of generosity & obedience of one unknown man:

2 Kings 4:42-44 – ⁴²One day a man from Baal-shalishah brought the man of God a sack of fresh grain and twenty loaves of barley bread made from the first grain of his harvest. Elisha said, “Give it to the people so they can eat.” ⁴³“What?” his servant exclaimed. “Feed a hundred people with only this?” But Elisha repeated, “Give it to the people so they can eat, for this is what the Lord says: Everyone will eat, and there will even be some left over!” ⁴⁴And when they gave it to the people, there was plenty for all and some left over, just as the Lord had promised.”

1) Elisha lives in tune with God

- 1) His ears are open... listening for direction. He trusts God.
- 2) He acts/responds to God’s voice. No hesitation. Believes in power
 - i) We do the opposite. Wait. Hesitate. Question. Nothing happens. We get stuck; miss miracles. Fear holds us back trust goes forward.
 - ii) **Gal. 3:5** – “Does God lavish His Spirit on you & work miracles among you b/c you practice the law, or b/c you hear & believe?”
 - iii) Elisha believes/knows: **Nothing is impossible to God.**

2) Elisha knows we serve a multiplying God.

- 1) **1 Kings 17:8-16** – Elijah meets a widow in Zarephath. He asked for water & bread. She had no bread. She and her son had only a handful of flour & little bit of oil. Last meal. But God multiplied that tiny amount so it never ran out!
 - i) It never ran out b/c she was obedient (gave to God 1st) & trusted.
- 2) **2 Kings 4** – Elisha and another widow. Her oil never ran out; she filled jar after jar w/ oil from 1 jar – sold them – paid debt – lived on rest. God miraculously multiplied the oil.
 - i) It never ran out b/c she trusted God & was obedient. Believed!
- 3) **2 Kings 7:3-8** – God multiplied the sound of 4 leper’s footsteps. An entire army heard the sound of horses & chariots of a great army. They fled, abandoned everything. Israel reaped the reward.

3) Do we believe God is a multiplying God? Do we trust His promise?

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your harvest; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.” – **Prov. 3:9-10**

This is direction with a promise. We honor God by trusting Him.

What you keep is all you have; what you give, God multiplies.

▶ Elisha’s story shows us: **no gift too small, no need too great.**

20 loaves of bread fed 100 people; with left-overs!

Left-overs show: God is abundant. We don’t lack. Live w/o

Psalm 23:1 - “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” - KJV

NIV - The LORD is my shepherd, **I lack nothing**

NLT - **I have all that I need.** CEV – **I will never be in need.**

God is generous so we can be also. God blesses us so we can be a blessing.

2 Cor. 9:10-11 NLT – God “will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.”

We can’t outgive God.

Luke 3:38 NLT – “Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.”

God’s people should reflect the characteristics of Him – generous.

God always rewards us for what we do for others

Matt. 10:42 – “And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward.”

Proverbs 11:25 - A generous soul will prosper, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

Proverbs 22:9 - The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

What we do for God comes back to us

Proverbs 19:17 – “Kindness to the poor is a loan to the LORD, and He will repay the lender.”

Matt. 19:29 CEV – “All who have given up home or brothers and sisters or father and mother or children or land for me will be given 100 times as much. They will also have eternal life.”

Because God is a multiplying God, what we do for God is blessed.
Nothing you do/give is too small. God multiplies - 100x
There will be leftovers.

Stay positive. Test negative. “Abundantly More” by North Point Worship

Next week: Autumn Equinox – “Change Can Be Beautiful”
