

A Young Boy Who Had Some Fish And Bread

John 6 records the miracle of Jesus feeding five thousand people with five barley loaves and two small fish. Often, we concentrate on the great power of Jesus. Philip's response when Jesus asked him how they would feed the multitude, or the food leftover from the miracle. There is another person I want to examine in this article.

"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" (John 6:9). What can we learn from this young boy and the miracle?

First, this lad was young. The term refers to one single person. His presence tells us he was at least among those following Jesus. Jesus could have performed this miracle with or without him, however this boy was about to learn a lesson he would never forget. Let me say something that may sound silly. A person can not follow and learn about Jesus if they are not interested. They are really not interested if they do not read HIS WORD, obey HIS WORD, and assemble with saints to worship Him. This boy was not there by chance or accidentally but by choice.

Second, this boy was young. Religion is not just for grown-ups and old folks. Joseph, Daniel, and David were young when they first followed God. Solomon wrote "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, I have not pleasure in them." (Ecclesiastes 12:1). God knows the abilities of each and every young person. He expects all of us to obey Him according to our abilities. "Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right". (Proverbs 20:11: 2).

Third, Jesus took the young boy's bread and fish. Literally the term translated as "small fish" indicates two small dried or pickled fish comparable to large sardines. This boy did not have much to eat and he was being asked to give them up. By giving all, he had Jesus provided more than what the multitude needed to eat!

We may not have much but we have to be willing to give Jesus everything. However, we know that we will receive more than we have given up.

Young people, you may have to give up your friends, activities you enjoy, popularity, or some other things yet you will receive a greater reward.

We do not know what became of the young boy. Did he continue to follow Jesus? Many did not. (John 6:66). Did he go out and tell others about Jesus and the feeding

of five thousand people with two fish and five barley loaves? Was he there as Jesus died on the cross? Did he hear the first gospel sermon on the Day of Pentecost? We do not know the answer to any of these questions but we do know Jesus died for this boy and he could have obeyed the gospel. The same can be said about each one of us. Jesus died for all so all can go to heaven if we listen, study and obey. - - Dennis Tucker