

Carriers of His Glory, Part 2 Five Loaves & Two Fish

[John 2:5](#)

“Do whatever he tells you.”

Good morning, everyone.

Last week, I have shared how 2012 is a kairos moment in our lives, including the life of Father’s House, and how we are to rise and shine. In order to rise & shine, we will lift up and celebrate His word given to us, by not only believing in it, but also living the very word in our daily activities. With that I gave four practical things we need to do in 2012, and to start this message, I would like to quickly summarize them to refresh our memories.

1. The first thing we will do is to minister to God by worshipping Him better, in seeking His face and repentance of our sins and sins of others so that He may heal this land.
[2 Chronicles 7:14](#)
¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
2. The second thing we will do is to minister to the people better, in ministering to ourselves, to our families, to our church members, and to everyone else.
 - We have set up a “Share Closet” for our members in which our members can donate into it and take things from it as needed.
 - I want to take this opportunity to thank Gil, Tyrone, Manuel, and Pastor Raul, along with Virginia, Catalina, Louise, and Pastor Carrie who have cleaned and rearranged the back of the fellowship hall and sorted through hundreds of already donated clothing so that we may have an effective “Share Closet.”
 - Some of the ladies have volunteered to even wash some clothes and fold them so that they will be more presentable.
 - Therefore, we already have some items, so I invite our members to peruse through the “Shared Closet” for your use and also for knowing what to bring in for the others.
 - In addition, we have set up a storage area in the back of the fellowship hall to stock dry and canned food, and good and useful items for the compassion ministry to be given to the public.
 - Right now, our target date for the first outreach will be either in March or in April.
3. The third thing we will do is actively seek other churches and ministries to share our beautiful facility.
4. The fourth thing and not the least important is of course anything the LORD highlights for us to do this year.
 - If the LORD shows us what to do, we will do our very best to live it.
 - We will not just sit and wait for Him to do everything, but actively participate in expanding the Kingdom of God. We will be His partners!
 - The difference between waiting for a revival and living the revival is that waiting for a revival is like waiting to hear what the LORD desires us to do, but living the revival is like once having heard and discerned what the LORD desires us to do, we actively pursue what we can as the Holy Spirit shows us and directs us.

Matthew 11:12

¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

- Waiting for a revival is waiting for His commission, but once we are anointed and set apart as we are, then we must live the revival, by being the revival wherever we are!
 - Do you believe that you are the revival?
 - Do you believe that you are appointed and anointed by God to expand His Kingdom?
 - Do you believe that you are sent out to minister to God and to the people?
 - ✓ Then let us shift our mindset from waiting for a revival, that is, waiting for something very special to happen, to living the revival because we are the revival.
 - Something special has already happened!
 - He has anointed you and sent you out!
 - Do you believe it?
 - ✓ Here is a truth: you and I are the revival, to bring a revival to those who are in need of a revival!
 - ✓ So, let us live as the Carriers of His glory!

With that I want to read a news paper clipping from The Press-Enterprise, the Local Extra edition of January 27, 2012, as an example of one of our members being raised up by God to shine. The newspaper highlighted and honored our Sheriff Deputy, Cpl Luke Torres. Let me read it in its relevant part:

The front page headline reads: **Eastvale council honors 3 deputies.**

The Eastvale Police Department honored three deputies at the Jan. 25 City Council meeting... Lt. Jason Horton...said [Cpl. Luke] Torres is [the recipient of the Leadership Award](#). He is a 14-year member of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, which provides law enforcement services to Eastvale...In 2011, the first year of Eastvale's agreement with the Sheriff's department, Torres was assigned to patrol but also took on the added responsibilities of traffic enforcement and collision investigation. Torres made 56 DUI arrests for the year in addition to 61 other arrests... Deputy Aaron Avila was named recipient of the Peer Award...and Deputy David Wright was awarded the Community Award.

Our cpl. Luke Torres is indeed rising and shining for the glory of God. When I congratulated him on his being awarded the only Leadership Award, he was so humble, and gave all glory to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

So, I would like everyone to congratulate Luke, because I know he would be humble and give all glory to God.

Now, going back to my message, let us be the revival wherever we are, transforming the society to make it a better place, expanding the Kingdom of God, being His light, and displaying His glory so that all men may be drawn to God.

Isaiah 60:1

^{60:1} "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

As I had said, we should no longer wait for God to anoint us more so that we may be able to do, but believing and knowing that we are already anointed so that we may live the revival; that is, taking His glory manifesting over us to the people. Let your goodness be demonstrated to the others, so that His glory will be shown to them.

- Therefore, we must live differently
 - Live as we are anointed,
 - Live as we are commissioned,
 - Live as we have more than enough, and
 - Live as we are sent by God to do those specific things we are about to do; that is, with a purpose in expanding the Kingdom of God for His glory!
- We are the revival!

Now, today, I would like to visit the Twelve disciples when Jesus tested them to see whether they would do the very thing God asked them to do or simply wait because they, in their opinion, thought they were unable to do what was asked of them because what they had was clearly not enough. For these disciples, although they had seen great miracles and wonders, although they had been appointed and sent out, and although they had performed great miracles and healings in the name of the LORD in the past, they were so focused on what they did not have, they could not even begin to grasp that a task the LORD had just asked them to do was within their reach.

Now, before we make any comments about the disciples, what would you have done if the LORD asked you to feed about more than ten thousand hungry people, including five thousand hungry men, with five small loaves of barley bread and two small fish?

Let us go to [Luke 9:12-17](#).

[Luke 9:12-17](#)

[After Jesus shared about the Kingdom of God and healed all who came to Him] ¹² Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.” ¹³ He replied, “You give them something to eat.” They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.” ¹⁴ (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” ¹⁵ The disciples did so, and everybody sat down. ¹⁶ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. ¹⁷ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Here in Luke, a great crowd came to hear Jesus about the Kingdom of God and to be healed. After all day in the field, after having no lunch, the Twelve came very hungry and wanted to eat, but they had a problem. They had no food and there were more than about ten thousand people there, all without food and all not having had lunch, completely mesmerized by the teaching and the healing miracles. So, the Twelve wanted to dismiss the crowd and go for some food. There is nothing wrong with this, of course, but Jesus had a different idea.

Jesus wanted to feed the people. Actually, let me restate that, with His help, Jesus wanted the disciples to feed the people with what they had. So, instead of dismissing the crowd early so that everyone can go home, Jesus was busy doing the Father’s business of teaching and healing.

So, when the disciples finally realized that everyone was hungry and perhaps everyone was starting to complain, they came to Jesus and said

Luke 9:12

¹² ... "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here."

Then the book of John gives us more detail of their conversations and the intent of Jesus. Jesus having already made His mind to feed the people through the hands of disciples, looked at Phillip and asked, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

John 6:5

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Phillip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

Amazing thing is Jesus asked Phillip that question to test him, to find out whether Phillip would answer back in faith or in the natural.

John 6:6

⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

- Sometimes, God asks us what we could do only to test us of our faith, and when God does, it is so much better to answer Him back with a statement of faith, compared to a statement based what we can do or what we cannot do.
- Notice here how Phillip answers Jesus.

John 6:7

⁷ Phillip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

- Now, I want you to know that there was nothing wrong with Phillip's answer, because he replied back according to Jesus' question, and that is how we would most likely have answered him also.
 - But, there was something Phillip missed in Jesus' question. Do you know what that was?
- Going back to the verse 5, Jesus asked,

John 6:5

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Phillip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

- Jesus did not ask where should the disciples buy bread for these people to eat, but Jesus asked where shall we (that is, the disciples and Jesus) buy bread for these people to eat.
 - However, because the disciples were so used in serving the people with what they have, because they were so used in doing what Jesus told them to do and doing it wholeheartedly with what they had, they didn't quite hear that Jesus said, "we", not "they."
 - The disciples instead of hearing "we" thought only of themselves, and excluded Jesus from "we."
 - Otherwise, they would have known that Jesus was about to do another miracle, something marvelous and great.
 - When you look at Jesus' question closely, His question was not what the disciples can do, but what the disciples can do **with Jesus**, as a group.
 - Now, how many of you caught that when you first read it?
 - That is because we are all like the disciples; thinking of only us, somehow excluding Jesus in our midst.

- Because Phillip did not get it, Jesus expresses His intent to feed all the people clearly, and tells the disciples to feed them.

Luke 9:13

¹³ He replied, “You give them something to eat.” ...

- Jesus basically tells the disciples to feed the people with what they have.
- Andrew, one of the Twelve, understanding Jesus’ desire to feed all the people, he answers,

John 6:8-9

⁸ ... 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?”

- Now knowing that they only had five small barley loaves and two small fish, the disciples in unison answer back to Jesus,

Luke 9:13

¹³ ... They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish— unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.”

- Once again, because the disciples were so used in serving the people with what they have, because they were so used to hear what Jesus told them to do and doing it, they didn’t quite hear that Jesus said, “we”, not “they.”
- The disciples instead of hearing “we” thought only of themselves, and excluded Jesus from “we.”
 - They thought when Jesus said “we”, they thought “they”; that is, when Jesus said “we” Jesus was thinking what He could do with the disciples to feed the people, but the disciples thought “we” meant “the disciples” thus thinking what they could do to feed the people.
 - Once again, Jesus’ question was not what the disciples can do, but what the disciples can do **with Jesus**, as a group.
 - Perhaps they thought when Jesus said “we,” it meant they and Jesus, but if that is the case, they saw Jesus only as one of them, not the one with such great power who had created heavens and earth with mere command.
 - Or, perhaps they thought when Jesus said “we,” it meant they and Jesus, but if that is the case, they wanted to do everything to serve God and have God watch them from the sidelines and approve of their efforts.
 - Either way, it is not what Jesus had in mind.
 - When Jesus said “we,” He was thinking what He could do and have the disciples help Him do what He was about to do.
 - Now, I have a question for us, when Jesus says “we,” do we treat Jesus as one of us or as God with us?
 - I have another question for us, when Jesus says “we,” do we want Jesus to simply stand on the sidelines and watch us do everything until we are absolutely exhausted? ... Then, perhaps, plead for mercy and help?
 - I know no one would admit it, but we all do.
 - We always think that all miracles and wonders would have to be done through us, with the gifts God has given us, in so doing we put so much pressure in us to do the things we know we cannot.

- Some, because of the fear of failure, give up ministry altogether and choose to not believe.
 - However, God doesn't think that way.
 - God thinks He is going to do all the miracles and wonders and would like to allow us to partner with Him with things we can do so that we may bring glory to God.
 - Amazing thing is, during the feeding of the thousands with five loaves and two fish, no one asked Jesus how Jesus would feed the people?
 - Do you know why?
 - It is because no one thought Jesus, even after having performed so many miracles and healings to help the people, would want to feed the people by Himself.
 - It is because the disciples thought they had to do everything by themselves, and Jesus was there as the Lord to merely observe them and approve their hard work.
 - Is there anyone here who thinks this way?
 - If so, you and I are the same.
 - Let's face it, although we would not admit it, we often are laid with heavy burdens, because we focus so much in what we can do and what we cannot do.
 - Let us change our attitudes and start focusing in what God can do and what God would do for us.
 - Let us repent of our ignoring Jesus in our midst, and repent of our not asking Jesus how He would do what He asked us to do.
 - Let us always remember that when He asks us to do something difficult, it is not "you do it," but "let us do it together."
 - It is always more like, "I will do the miracles, if you would believe me enough to take few small steps of faith and do the small things I ask you to do."
 - I know in history, there was at least one person who knew this secret. Do you know who that was?
 - It is Mary, the mother of Jesus.
 - Let us go to John Chapter 2.

John 2:1-10

^{2:1} On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee...³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." [Mary, having faith that Jesus would do miracles]⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ...⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so,⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine... Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

- Mary knew that Jesus wasn't going to do nothing when He knew of the need of His people, so although it would take a miracle, she instructs the servants **to do whatever He tells them to do**....and when they did, the miracle happened.
 - What they did was something very simple and trivial, something they can all easily do; pouring water into the empty jars.
 - I bet you, if they knew the reason why they were pouring the water in the jar, they would had hard time doing the simple things they can, because they could not believe that their simple acts of obedience was a key element in God's miracle.
 - So, going back to our five loaves and two fish story, perhaps the only thing Jesus wanted to hear from us was a question, "Jesus, please tell us how we (meaning Jesus and we) would feed the people?"
 - Perhaps the only thing Jesus wanted to hear from us was a statement, "Jesus, we only have five small barley loaves and two fish, show us how you and we may feed all these people?"
 - I believe the only thing the LORD wants from us is a question back:
 - "We know that you have asked us something that is impossible for us to do with what we have, so what do you have in mind with these small things?"
 - Perhaps, "We will gladly offer these small things we have and we will gladly help you do whatever you ask, because we know You are always faithful in doing what You ask us to do for you or for the people."
- Exodus 4:2
² Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied.
- A staff is nothing. It is much less than the mix of your God given gifts and talents, but a staff in God's will is mighty enough to do the miracles and part the Red Sea, so long as the servant is willing to do what God shows him to do.
- So, in response to Jesus' statement, "**You give them something to eat**," because the disciples (actually a small boy) were willing to share whatever they had (even though they did not believe it was enough), Jesus takes their tiny offering and unfolds His next step in providing the miracle and accomplishing what He had intended to do.
- 1 Peter 4:10
¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.
- So often the LORD only requires us to take a step of faith, as small a step as it may be, towards His command and He will provide the rest in a very supernatural way.
 - And, because of that small step of faith in offering five loaves and two fish, the LORD instructs the disciple what He would like them to do next in order to partner with Him in providing a great miracle; that is, feeding more than about ten thousand people with five small barley loaves and two fish.
- Luke 9:14
¹⁴ ...But he said to his disciples, "**Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.**" ¹⁵ The disciples did so, and everybody sat down.

- Now, the disciples knew how to have the people sit down in groups of about fifty each, so they busily make the people sit in groups.
- And amazing thing is, the disciples asking the people to sit in groups of fifty is all it took for the disciples to partner with God in providing for more than about ten thousand people with five small barley loaves and two fish.
- The next step in the miracle making was up to Jesus, which He promptly provided.

Luke 9:16

¹⁶ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them.

- Now, does that sound like a miracle to you?

Luke 9:16

¹⁶ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them.

- It is something we do all the time, in fact we had a communion this morning, and for it, we thanked God, broke bread and shared wine.
- Now, let us look at what happened next:

Luke 9:16

¹⁶ ... Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people.

- Now, does that sound like a miracle to you?
 - It is no miracle to hold on to the broken loaves and broken fish.
 - The task only becomes daunting when you start looking at the situation, the thousands of hungry people and little food you have in your hands.
 - But, the countering fact of the situation is that God wants to feed all these people with the little they have.
 - How many of you know when you are doing what God is doing, you win! Absolutely Win!
 - The actual miracle is when the disciples received the pieces of bread and pieces of fish, they suddenly had faith to move on and break the bread and break the fish again to give to the people.
 - Instead of staring at Jesus or staring at the broken pieces of bread and the pieces of fish saying that this is nothing, they now saw what Jesus wanted them to do and started to set the food before the people.
 - I know some movies portray the miracle like this: when Jesus prays there suddenly appear hundreds of baskets of bread and fish, so the disciples can hand them out.
 - I, however, strongly do not believe that is how it happened, because it is not how the story is written.
 - The word of God says,

Luke 9:16

Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people.

- It says “them” meaning the broken pieces of bread and fish. Therefore, I strongly believe that when Jesus gave the disciples pieces of bread and pieces of fish, that is exactly what were in the disciples’ hands; pieces of bread and pieces of fish; perhaps one piece of bread and one piece of fish.
- However, this time, something was different. Because Jesus gave them pieces of bread and pieces of fish to give to the people, they had no choice but to do the same with what were given to them.
- So, in an act of small faith, perhaps in making a very small piece of the bread and a very small piece of the fish at first, they broke again the piece of bread and broke again a piece of fish, and in their hands these pieces after being broken again became as large as they had initially received.
- The piece of bread and the piece of fish became as large, if not larger, than what they had received.
- Now that is a miracle!
 - So, the miracle actually happened in the disciples’ hands, not in the hands of Jesus.
 - When the disciples finally believed and did what Jesus asked them to do – feeding the people with five small loaves and two fish – the miracle happened in their hands.
 - Yes, it is impossible, but because it is impossible, we need faith!
 - When we are willing to do what Jesus asks us to do, even though it is outright impossible in our eyes, we are prime to receive the miracle which you and I have been dreaming about...not for us, but for the people!
- Now, although the bible does not mention it, I believe yet another miracle happened.
- Do you know how long it would have taken the disciples to break the bread and the fish to feed all the people?
 - If they had done it alone, it would have taken them hours, and it would have been very dark, the people would be readying to go to sleep, and the ones who were receiving the bread at the end would have been famished.
 - Worse, the disciples now have to provide blankets to all the people.
 - So, I believe another miracle happened, and it is when the disciples broke the bread and the fish and gave them to the people, the people started to break the piece of bread and the piece of fish they received to share with others, and they multiplied just the same, and everyone participated in God’s miracle!

- Now, that is a miracle!
 - Not only the Twelve performing miracles, but everyone performing miracles, because they saw and believed.
- Just because a few (the twelve) were willing to take a step of faith to follow the instruction from Jesus, everyone not only saw, but participated in one of the greatest miracles.
 - 1 Peter 4:10
 - ¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.
- And, in the end, they had more than enough; in fact, they had leftovers.
 - Luke 9:17
 - ¹⁷ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.
 - Let us praise the LORD!

Now, allow me to recap what happened.

- The disciples had five small barley loaves and two fish, and Jesus asked them to feed the people, all ten thousand of them.
- No one believed that was possible, and when Jesus asked them to do so, they had given Jesus reasons why they cannot.
 - Do we give Jesus our reasons why His directions in our lives cannot happen?
 - Let us change our mindset.
- And, no one was smart enough to ask Jesus how He would feed all the people with only five loaves and two fish. If they did, Jesus would have smiled and told them how.
 - I think even if Jesus had told them how, they would not have believed it in the beginning, until it actually happened.
- But, when they were pressed to the situation, they decided to take a small step of faith and do what they can, such as having the people sit down and handing out pieces of bread and fish to the people.
 - Job 8:7 [NKJV]
 - ⁷ Though your beginning was small, Yet your latter end would increase abundantly.
 - Unless there are small beginnings we make, there would be no miracles.
 - From a small seed, a great oak tree becomes.
- When they did what Jesus had just demonstrated even though it did not look like much; that is, breaking bread and fish, that small step in doing what they could do, the miracle started to happen...because God multiplied the food and multiplied our efforts.
- And afterward, when there were leftovers in abundance (twelve basketfuls of bread and fish), guess who took them home for a feast – the disciples!

So, would you like to be used by God for a miracle?

- Do not think your gift or ability is too little.
- Actually know and acknowledge that your gift or ability is too little to do God's assignment, then you will know that it is not your work, but God's.
- In so doing, instead of focusing what you are going to do with that little gift or ability, start focusing on what God can do if you allow Him to direct you in using your small gift or small ability.

- With what you have, take small steps toward fulfilling His instructions to you, by asking Him what and how to do it.
- When God shows you a little step, just do it.
 - Luke 9:14
¹⁴ ...But he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” ¹⁵
 The disciples did so, and everybody sat down.
 - It is easier, if we try not to figure out how everything will work out.
- Then, ask God to show you the next step, and just do it.
 - Luke 9:16
¹⁶ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. [and they did]
- Then, see the miracle and rejoice with God and give Him glory.
 - Luke 9:17
¹⁷ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.
- Then, engrave the reality of the miracle in your heart so that you do not forget, and take the leftovers with you to enjoy and to share with others.

Now, let us go back to the beginning.

From the beginning, they actually had more than what they needed (Jesus was there with them and also there were leftovers).

- The problem was that they just didn't believe they had enough, because they discounted Jesus to be a mere onlooker, so they could not believe they had enough. Because they could not believe, so they could not act.
- However, when they started to do small things they knew how to do which Jesus showed them, these small insignificant steps (such as having people sit down in groups of fifty, and breaking bread and fish to give to the others there) really started to add up...and before they knew it, they were at the center of making of a great miracle, because Jesus loves the people!

So, do not discount your gifts, but let us **together** use what the LORD has given us so that **together** we may bring forth a miracle which we will never forget...then another and another and another...because we believe and because we have learned to walk with Him.

[Salvation Call, if required]

[Prayer, Benediction, Invitation, and Ministry]