

## Have A Desire to Give

<sup>5</sup>When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” <sup>6</sup>He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.<sup>7</sup> *Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” - John 6:5-7*

Giving is a key that unlocks the door to divine increase. Too often the door to divine increase remains locked because we allow our present circumstances to stop us from giving, that is, to kill our desire to give.

Jesus, upon seeing the large crowd, asked Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” *Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”*

Philip’s faith died the moment he said that. He allowed his present circumstances to kill his faith and to nullify the promise for divine increase in his life. Philip did the Math and realized that he did not have enough money to buy food for the thousands of people who followed Jesus. He accepted that feeding such a large multitude of people on that day was an impossible task.

This is Matthew’s account of the same event:

*“<sup>15</sup>As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” – Matthew 14:15*

So the negative circumstances or excuses (ouch!!) in respect of time, distance and lack of money served to potentially rob the disciples of an opportunity to give and to unlock the biblical promise of divine increase.

But Jesus wants to demonstrate the principle of how the desire to give, irrespective of the many setbacks, can miraculously open up the windows of heaven, and cause heavenly blessings to pour upon the giver.

*<sup>16</sup>Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” – Matthew 14:15-16.*

It was not that Jesus was unaware of how the human mind thinks and how our senses inform our decisions. The human mind logically says that it is impossible to feed thousands of people given the time of the day, the remote location of the crowd, and the sheer multitude of people. But Jesus is insisting that there is another way that activates the realm of the supernatural, but which requires human effort and participation. He stresses, “Stop making excuses! You (have that desire to) give in spite of what limitations exist, and leave the rest to me.”

The poor widow teaches us that it is humanly possible to give, in spite of life’s challenges and daunting outlook:

*And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, <sup>2</sup> and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. <sup>3</sup> So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; <sup>4</sup> for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”- Luke 21:1-4.*

The widow, through her strong faith, did not allow her personal circumstances to stop her from giving, and to abort the divine blessings which she, no doubt, received for her faithful act.

*Heavenly Father,*

*“Teach me to take my eyes off of my circumstances, and to step out in faith in respect of my giving. Like the poor widow who gave in spite of her destitute situation, help me to rise above my own personal challenges and obstacles and to give in faith, believing that I will receive my supernatural blessings in due season. In Jesus’ name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen.”*

**Memory Verses:** *“she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.” – Luke 21:4*