

## Give The Scraps Back To Jesus: Let Nothing Be Wasted!!

*<sup>42</sup>When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.’ – John 6:12-13.*

The multitude were fed and “they all had enough to eat.” Jesus through the Heavenly Father had performed a great miracle, and demonstrated that one of the keys to divine increase is in giving. He showed that once giving is done with a joyful heart and with thanksgiving unto God for the gifts to give, then abundant blessings will follow.

Jesus and His disciples gave food to the hungry – a demonstration that giving is not only about giving money – and that one can always find something (time, service, food etc.) to give freely unto those in need. Throughout the giving, He stressed that the giver must have a mind to work. His disciples cooperated in finding a boy with five loaves and two fishes, they helped in the seating of the multitude and the distribution of the bread and fishes, and finally in the gathering of the left-overs after everyone had eaten to his satisfaction.

Note the heavenly order in which divine increase flows: give and receive....give and receive....give and receive. The little boy gave up his lunch, and he received a hearty meal from God. The disciples gave out the loaves and fishes and each one received a basket full with left-overs. Jesus gave thanks for the five loaves and two fishes and He received power from His Heavenly Father to perform this miracle.

Remember what Jesus said in John 6:38:

*<sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”*

Jesus never did anything without His Father’s approval or His will.

Give and receive. It is also important to note that when we give to God, by giving to others, we are never left in need. The world has taught us that we need to get in order to give. As a result, this has caused a lot of people to have a ‘closed fist’ when the opportunity arises to give. Either they do not give at all or they give grudgingly- less than what they can truly give. Do you remember Phillip’s response to Jesus question about giving?

*<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!”*

Philip thought that he first needed to get the money before he can even entertain the thought of giving.

I am stressing again that giving is not only about the giving of money. Time in service to others is a precious commodity worth giving. So, when a need arises that requires us to volunteer our time, we tend to make excuses because we are too busy. Divine increase cannot flow from such a selfish attitude. Make time for the things of God and He will make time for you.

There is always something that we can find to give, even if it is the invaluable gift of taking time to pray for others.

What would have happened if Jesus had agreed with the suggestion made by one of the disciples to send the people away instead of taking the time to give them something to eat? Then there would have been no demonstration of the power of God to feed the multitude, and no divine increase would have followed. Give to receive. Give to receive. Give to others and receive your abundant blessings from God.

Jesus gave a word of caution. When you receive, **“Let nothing be wasted.”** There is a tendency for people not to value what they get for free. Also, when something is in over-abundance we tend to be reckless in how we handle it. We waste it. The crowd had an overabundance of food. They ate to their hearts’ delight and they discarded the left-overs. The prodigal son also provides a good example. After he received his inheritance from his father, he went away and wasted it all on “riotous living”(See Luke 15:11-15).

It doesn’t take much to see the waste that lie around us. We read about it in the newspapers, online and we see it every day on the television. Another life is wasted by the barrel of a gun, or by an lethal overdose of drugs. We don’t give life and we should not take it!

God may even give us free education or some other opportunity and that, too, is squandered. Or, we may be blessed with a good husband, wife, children and friends, but instead of appreciating the Giver and the gifts, we allow abuse to step in and the gift is not cherished, and often damaged.

Jesus said, **“Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.”**

*I would like to speak to someone who may have been left like a piece of bread on the ground to be thrown away. You have survived a terrible ordeal at the hands of another. You have been used and abused, and now you have been discarded. Your self-esteem is extremely low and your self-worth is in question. You don’t think anyone would ever love you again, and you feel like you don’t deserved to be loved. You have given up. I would like to tell you that Jesus loves you very much. He sees you, just as He sees the scraps of food that were discarded by the crowd: You are very valuable indeed. Jesus can put back together the broken pieces of your life. He has amazing plans for you! You were born to accomplish a great purpose for God, and the devil has been fighting you to ensure that it does not come to pass. Don’t give the devil victory over the rest of your life. You may have lost the last few battles, but you have*

*not lost the war! Arise with the help of God, dust yourself off, wipe the tears from your eyes, and begin to live again! Your life is not wasted. Give Jesus a chance to show what great things He has in store for you. Because you have taken the time to read this, you are in the right place at the right time to hear from God. There is going to be supernatural favour in your life. God is going to turn around for good what the devil intended for evil. This is your season of restoration and divine increase. What you thought you have lost, will be found again! He is saying that your weeping is over, and that He is about to do a new thing. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to the right church where you can fellowship and receive a Word from God in due season. Make time to spend with God in daily prayer and through the study of His Word. Let's pray as other readers stand in agreement with me:*

*"Heavenly Father,*

*Thank You for this person that You have created, who is the 'apple of your eyes.' You have sent Your Son Jesus to heal the broken-hearted, and I thank You for mending this heart that has been trampled upon by another, and that has been discarded like a piece of bread. You said "Let nothing be wasted!" This person's life is not a waste! You have come to give life and to give it more abundantly. Today I declare your abundant blessings upon this person: spiritually, physically, emotionally and financially. Thank You for sending the gift of Your Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to comfort and to guide. Let there be true repentance today, O Lord, and the forgiveness of sins. According to Your will, grant the desires of the heart, and open new doors of opportunities for this person. In Jesus' name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen."*

**Memory Verses:** *"Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."- John 6:12*