

## ENCOUNTERS

### Just Give What You Have

*“After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, ‘**Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?**’ He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. Philip replied, ‘Even if we worked for months, we wouldn’t have enough money to feed them!’ Then Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up. ‘There’s a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?’ ‘Tell everyone to sit down,’ Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered 5,000.) Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, ‘Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.’ So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.”*

*John 6:1-13 (NLT)*

We have Community Groups throughout the Denver Metro Area. You can find a listing of these groups online at [www.fbc.org/smallgroups](http://www.fbc.org/smallgroups). For more information or questions, please contact Ceely Ann at 303.424.2121, ext. 92407 or [ceelyann.lonergan@fbc.org](mailto:ceelyann.lonergan@fbc.org)

**Please feel free to come down to the front  
for prayer after service.**

**“...pray for one another...” James 5:16**

### Initial Observations

- **The focus is on natural vs. supernatural**
- **Jesus asks an important question to solve the impossible situation**

- People often focus on the problem and not the possibilities
- The principles of abundance and prosperity are fueled by the law of giving

## Lessons for Giving

### 1. Give generously; this will require that you give in

*“Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich **generosity**.”* 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 (NLT)

**Where have you eliminated the supernatural element from your giving?** \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Give consistently and sacrificially; this will require that you give over

*“For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was **to give themselves** to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.”*  
2 Corinthians 8:3-5 (NLT)

*“If you are really eager to give, then it isn't important how much you have to give. God wants you to give what you have, not what you haven't.”* 2 Corinthians 8:12 (TLB)

### 3. Give cheerfully; this will require that you give wisely

*“Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person **who gives cheerfully**. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”*  
2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NLT)

- Refuse to worry; beware of procrastination and hesitation

*“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?”*  
Matthew 6:24-27 (NLT)

- Faith is the key to a lifestyle of giving

*“Don't store up treasures here on earth where they can erode away or may be stolen. Store them in heaven where they will never lose their value and are safe from thieves. If your profits are in heaven, your heart will be there too.”*  
Matthew 6:19-21 (TLB)

**What are the next steps God is asking you to take?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_