

STEP UP . . . AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Mark 8:1-9

- **Today on TEAM SUNDAY we're asking all regular attendees to "step up to serve" on one of our Ministry teams.**
- *"Jesus called His disciples and told them, 'I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will faint along the way. For some of them have come a long distance.' His disciples replied, 'How are we supposed to find enough food to feed them out here in the wilderness?' Jesus asked, 'How much bread do you have?' . . ."* (Mark 8:1-5)
- **Jesus' question to His disciples is the same question He asks us today – *"What do you have - and are you willing to give Me what you have so I can help others?"***
- ***What are some things that we need to begin sharing with others so that the Lord can use us to make a difference in the lives of others?***

The Lord Wants Us To Be Involved In Sharing:

OUR ABILITIES WITH OTHERS

- Jesus to the Disciples - *"How much BREAD do you have?"* (Mark 8:5)
- **Every Christian has been gifted in some way by the Lord – and we are to utilize our gifts and talents in His service (Matthew 25:14-30, Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-27).**
- *"Be sure to use the abilities God has given you . . . Put these abilities to work."* (1 Timothy 4:14-15 LB)
- ***What talents and abilities do I have that I could utilize to serve God and others?***
- **All of God's people who have ever been used by Him to help others have been aware of their inadequacies; but they have used their gifts and abilities to do what they could for the Lord and others, trusting God to do what they couldn't do.**
- *"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10)

- **When we get involved on a Serve Team or in a Life Group we discover how God can use the gifts and talents He's given to us to honor Him and help people.**
- ***What steps can I take to use my talents to help others in our Church's ministry?***

The Lord Wants Us To Be Involved In Sharing:

OUR <u>EXPERIENCES</u> WITH OTHERS

- Jesus to the Disciples - *"How much bread do YOU have?"* (Mark 8:5)
- **We've learned valuable lessons from our studies we need to share with others.**
- Paul - *"You have heard me teach . . . Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others."* (2 Timothy 2:2)
- **We have learned valuable lessons from our spiritual, family, educational, vocational and ministry experiences that God can use to help others.**
- *"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."* (Proverbs 27:17)
- **Sometimes what we've learned from our most difficult and painful experiences is what God uses to bring help, hope and healing to others.**
- *"God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."* (2 Corinthians 1:4)
- **Everyone has some knowledge or experience that can help others, and if we love the Lord and people we will find ways to share with others what we know or have experienced.**
- ***What are some things I've learned that I need to share with others on a Serve Team or in a small group?***

The Lord Wants Us To Be Involved In Sharing:

OUR <u>RESOURCES</u> WITH OTHERS

- *"Jesus asked, 'How much bread do you have?' They replied, 'Seven loaves, and a few small fish.'"* (Mark 8:5)
- **We are to generously give from our resources to honor the Lord and help others, and God blesses us when we do so (2 Corinthians 8-9).**
- *"God loves the 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 9:7-8)
- **There are also many non-monetary resources that we have to share that can help others around us.**
- ***What are some resources I have that could benefit others?***

The Lord Wants Us To Be Involved In Sharing:

OUR <u>TESTIMONIES</u> WITH OTHERS

- *"Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the Sea of Galilee and the region of the Ten Towns. . . . About this time another large crowd had gathered, and the people ran out of food again."* (Mark 7:31, 8:1)
- **The crowd was there that day because of the miracles Jesus was performing; but also because of the fervent witness of a formerly demonized man (Mark 5:1-20).**
- *"As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. But Jesus said, 'No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful He has been.' So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them."* (Mark 5:18-20)
- **Real followers of Jesus have experienced transformation in their lives.**
- *"Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- **People whose lives have been transformed by Jesus tell others about who the Lord is to them and what He's done for them.**
- Jesus – *"When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about Me everywhere . . . ."* (Acts 1:8)
- ***What are some steps I can take to better share the Lord with others?***

- *"Jesus . . . took the seven loaves, thanked God for them, and broke them into pieces. He gave them to His disciples, who distributed the bread to the crowd. A few small fish were found, too, so Jesus also blessed these and told the disciples to distribute them. They ate as much as they wanted. Afterward, the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftover food. There were about 4,000 men in the crowd that day . . ."* (Mark 8:6-9)
- **Self-centeredness is the primary reason many Christians never get engaged with others in a small group (Life Group) or a ministry team.**
- Jesus - *"If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it."* (Luke 9:23-24)
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message?***