



PARTNER, DO YOU
BELIEVE HE CAN DO
THIS?

a church in the World

ABSTRACT

Let me introduce you to a story about a little boy. The little boy had such a great relationship ...

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Scripture of the Day

1 Kings 17:8 – 16

⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to him, ⁹ “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” ¹¹ And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹² And she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” ¹³ And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.’” ¹⁵ And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Introduction

Welcome to a church in the World where we strive to coach everyone on what God means in His Word and the joy of walking that out, no matter how difficult that may be.

Let me introduce you to a story about a little boy.

The little boy had such a great relationship with his Dad and his Dad did everything to build the confidence of his son. You saw some of their adventures and the Dad would always say to the little boy, “Partner, do you believe we can do this?” The little boy would respond, “Yes, I believe we can do this.”

We are in the part of our following of Jesus with the feeding of the 5,000 men and Jesus gives a command to the apostles to do, but they all falter and think in an earthly way, which all of us do, but we shouldn't. When Jesus gives us an activity to do, we need to hear in our inner voice telling us “Partner, Do You Believe HE Can Do This?”

Body

Luke 9:12-17

“Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, “Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place.” But he said to them, “You give them something to eat.” They said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.” For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, “Have them sit

down in groups of about fifty each.” And they did so, and had them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.”

If we look at all of the synoptic gospels, we see that same phrase that Jesus gives in each of them, and the synoptic gospels are Matthew, Mark, and Luke. “You give them something to eat.” And in each of them the response is how can we do this with just five loaves and two fish. That’s not close to being enough and it would take 200 denarii (200 days of wages) to maybe give everyone a morsel. The apostles believed this was impossible. They forgot who their partner is. They forgot who was telling them to do this.

Often, we overspiritualize the people in the Bible. We make them much bigger than they really are. They are just people, just like us. And they have an all-powerful God, just like us. Let me give a few examples.

Joseph

Joseph was one of 12 children and he was the favorite of his father and most of his brothers disliked him for this. One day they conspired against Joseph and sold him into slavery. While being a slave in Egypt, Joseph was then put in prison.

However, God was with him throughout all of this and when God moved, things changed in a mighty way.

Genesis 41:15 – 32

¹⁵ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” ¹⁶ Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”^[a] ¹⁷ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Behold, in my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile. ¹⁸ Seven cows, plump and attractive, came up out of the Nile and fed in the reed grass. ¹⁹ Seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and thin, such as I had never seen in all the land of Egypt. ²⁰ And the thin, ugly cows ate up the first seven plump cows, ²¹ but when they had eaten them no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as ugly as at the beginning. Then I awoke. ²² I also saw in my dream seven ears growing on one stalk, full and good. ²³ Seven ears, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them, ²⁴ and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. And I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me.”

²⁵ Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. ²⁷ The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine. ²⁸ It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁹ There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, ³⁰ but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine

will consume the land,³¹ and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe.³² And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

Moses

Let's talk about Moses. He was born into slavery, so he was a slave. Talk about not being special. However, God had plans for him and miraculously orchestrated a way for Moses to be brought up as an Egyptian prince. However, Moses did stay a prince and because he defended a Jew against harsh treatment by an Egyptian he had to flee from Egypt into the desert. While in the desert we know that Moses sees a burning bush, but it is not being consumed and he goes up the mountain to see it. There the Lord tells him this:

Exodus 3:7 – 10

⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

We know that God did many miraculous works through Moses, but I want to show you this one in particular:

Exodus 16:1 – 4

They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt.² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness,³ and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not."

Elisha

Elisha was a farmer. Nothing special. No superpowers. However, God told Elijah the prophet:
1 Kings 19:15 – 16, 19 – 21

¹⁵ And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when

you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. ¹⁶ And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.

¹⁹ So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. ²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" ²¹ And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

Now after Elijah has been taken up into heaven we see Elisha do many things, but I want to point this event out to you today:

2 Kings 4:38 – 44

³⁸ And Elisha came again to Gilgal when there was a famine in the land. And as the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant, "Set on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets." ³⁹ One of them went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine and gathered from it his lap full of wild gourds, and came and cut them up into the pot of stew, not knowing what they were. ⁴⁰ And they poured out some for the men to eat. But while they were eating of the stew, they cried out, "O man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it. ⁴¹ He said, "Then bring flour." And he threw it into the pot and said, "Pour some out for the men, that they may eat." And there was no harm in the pot.

⁴² A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And Elisha said, "Give to the men, that they may eat." ⁴³ But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred men?" So he repeated, "Give them to the men, that they may eat, for thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" ⁴⁴ So he set it before them. And they ate and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

Take Aways

We Have What They Have, But More

Notice a common thread with all of these accounts:

Genesis 41:37 – 38

³⁷ This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. ³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?"

Numbers 11:16 – 17

¹⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. ¹⁷ And I will come down and talk with you there.

And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.

2 Kings 2:9 – 10

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” ¹⁰And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.”

What is the common thread in all of these accounts? God’s Spirit.

John 14:16 – 17

¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,^[1] to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be^[2] in you.

Always point people to Jesus