

Encouraged by Jesus (P2)

by K.P. Yohannan

We need to learn to trust God and stand on His promises in His word, and give to others to show God's love and care for them.

Duration: 24:24

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-4, Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 14:13-21, Matthew 18:21-22, Matthew 23:12, Mark 6:45-46, Luke 6:31, Luke 6:38, John 6:9

Topics: "Jesus"

Description

In this sermon, Brother K.P.U.Hannan encourages listeners to be conduits for Christ by giving and blessing others. He emphasizes the principle of giving and receiving, stating that the more we give, the more we will receive. He uses the example of the miracle of feeding the 5,000 with just five loaves and two fish to illustrate the power of surrendering what little we have to God. He also highlights the importance of not seeking personal glory but instead seeking to bring glory to God in all that we do.

Transcript

Brother K.P. Yohanan, encouraging us to be conduits for Christ. Whatever the Lord gives to you, give it away. You want to be blessed, bless others.

Give, it shall be given to you in full measure, pressed down and running over. You want forgiveness, forgive. You want love, give love.

You want people to smile at you, smile. This is the way our life is. The more you give, the more you receive.

Don't hold things so tightly for yourself. Give it away, whatever that is. Approximately 15,000 to 20,000 hungry people and just five loaves and two fish.

The disciples of Christ saw this as a problem, but Jesus saw it as an opportunity. Welcome to the Road to Reality from Gospel for Asia. I'm your host, Richard Bewes.

Today, Brother K.P. points to our inadequacy as well as God's adequacy. With God, all things are possible, and the story we are about to look at underscores that truth. As we look again at the feeding of the 5,000, we'll be encouraged to trust God at all times, see just how much He cares for people, and learn how to pass that care and encouragement along to those we come in contact with.

Let's be encouraged by Jesus Christ. Here's K.P. once again. Unless you and I believe God, our Father, is so entrusted in you, every detail... Baba, if one has a problem with God, how much more is concerned about your sari and your trousers and your food and all the other stuff that you are worried about? But you see, God stands helpless, His hands bound up, not able to do one thing for you, and He weeps, saying, I wish you would let me loose so I can care and I can touch you, I can heal you, I can bless you, I can reveal myself to you.

Please untie me. His hands are tied up. You are saying, what are you saying? Who did it? You did it.

I do it. Psalm 78, it says, they bound up the hands of the Almighty. He could not do anything for them.

With the choice, the freedom He gave to you, to me, we have to make some decision saying, Lord, I give up. I accept, I receive what you have said in your word, and I receive it like a child. I don't argue, debate, question.

I simply believe the act of faith releases the hand of God and His promises, so we become inheritors of His promise and walk into His promises. That's what the scripture tells us. We have to be careful not to separate the sacred from the secular to the extreme that will hurt us even in our spiritual life.

Dichotomy is good when it comes to holiness and sin and things like that. We have to have a clear understanding from right and wrong. I agree.

But in God's dealing with us, we often separate our Monday through Saturday as secular and Sunday as spiritual. The prayer meetings and worship, we make it spiritual, and the dealing with our family members or friends, we make it secular. But if you watch the lives of the people of God, the way God dealt with them, He didn't make any segregation in that.

He was very much concerned about the way we relate to one another horizontally, the words we use, the attitude, the responses, forgiving, receiving forgiveness, and walking with one another. It's very serious, the instructions and the consequence. What is so spiritual about rice? What is so spiritual about it? It is also spiritual when we acknowledge all things are from Him and for Him.

The slaves who were born-again believers, serving ungodly masters when they were mistreated, Paul writes, my brothers, serve your masters as ungodly to the Lord. Don't work so hard when they watch you. Your master in heaven is watching you.

Be faithful to him. Think about that. Do everything, whether you eat or drink, all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians chapter 10, verse 31. So, when we make our decisions about our life, do you consider the Lord is concerned about it and ask Him to get involved with it? Along with that, I want to make one more point here, that is, Jesus is no more walking on earth. He is the head of the church.

We are His body, and the head tells the body to act. Hands, legs, eyes. So now, Jesus who walked on earth, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Right now, He wants to do His heart's desire through His body, that is, you and I. We are the body. If Jesus were to walk here on earth right now, looking at the 300 million Dalits, having spent eight years in North India, I can tell you, places like Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and UP, places where many of these people, millions, live in abject poverty and total illiteracy. And their lives are not so wonderful.

When I was in Rajasthan for a couple of years in Ajmer, I saw these people, the Dalits called Thottis, going around early morning and cleaning the toilets, open sewer with their own hands and carrying it on their head. And from kilometers, you can sense the sting. They carry in their body people made in the image of the Almighty God.

What kind of response Jesus would have to these people? What about the HIV, AIDS victims? We don't talk about it. But millions and millions are dying. Do we care? Do we have space to pray for them? If Jesus were here today, how will He respond? The five million people living in the slums of Bombay alone and the 100,000 children walking around on the streets of Calcutta, not knowing who their parents are, the Adivasis and the tribals, the millions of precious people.

Living in the leper colonies, He saw the multitude, they were hungry. He saw the sick and the deceased and the people that were forsaken, and He had compassion on them. Is there any space, any room in your heart? You say, what am I supposed to do? Let me ask you, do you have a list of things you pray for? I imagine you do.

Do you have these people on your list to pray for them? Are you one that's praying, Lord, show me my role so I can do something to serve? We got 175 dull schools with some 7,000 little children. Many of these kids come to our school totally naked, three, four, five-year-old children coming, never wore a stitcher cloth on their body. They need to be washed up and get a uniform and give them books and give them some hope.

And I began to think about it recently, what a privilege it would be for all of us, including my own family, to take some of these children, saying they are going to be my children. I will pray for them. I will give them finances or help whatever I can.

And someday when they grow up and know the Lord and serve God, what a blessing I can say, wow, 50 of those young people now living and serving God because I had the opportunity and the privilege the Lord gave me to do something for them. Jesus cares, and He cares about our needs, our problems, but at the same time, He wants us to care about others. The third thought I want to point out from this passage is Jesus asking Philip on his disciples, Philip, yes Lord, we got a problem.

Yeah, I know, look at all these people. And God asking a question to a man. Think about it.

What are you going to do? Well, Philip carries a calculator. You know what a calculator is? 1, 2, 3, 4, 10 plus 10 is... So immediately he takes out the calculator and says, well, yeah, I mean, we got a very large crowd here. Even if we have this much money, it's nothing.

There's no way. It is impossible. You're asking me what to do about it? It says in the message, this verse goes like this, it was to stretch Philip's faith.

Jesus asked him how on earth they're going to do it, and Jesus did it to stretch Philip's faith, for he already knew what he was going to do. Hey, think about it. Are you one, I should ask this to my own heart, am I that individual who lived by logic and reason? I mean, Philip can go to a court and argue his point and prove it.

He is correct. I mean, how can you feed all these people? There's no way. Impossible.

I agree. He's right. But Jesus now is trying to train his disciples for three and a half years to get them ready for the life that is before them.

That's what he's doing with us also. And Philip was given the privilege, the opportunity to respond. Something like this, Lord, you are asking me, what's wrong with you? I mean, I saw you doing this miracle.

This leper got healed and this man 38 years just walked away and the demon possessed people, they got well. I mean, you're asking me what to do with it? Lord, with you, you are the answer. But that didn't agree with the logic.

The Lord was lovingly preparing his disciples for the road ahead, and as we study this passage, he's preparing us for works of service too. Before we return to K.P. Yohannan here on the Road to Reality, we'd like to encourage you to join Brother K.P. when he visits Northern Ireland at the end of this month. We'd love you to meet the Gospel for Aisha staff and spend the day with Brother K.P. on the 22nd of August.

He'll be sharing from his heart both words of encouragement for our walk with Christ and reports from the mission field that I think you are going to find both encouraging and challenging. I'm sure you can't miss it, and you mustn't. To find out more, you can go to our website gfauk.org, or if you're in Northern Ireland, stop by your nearest Faith Mission bookshop.

Now with the second half of this week's study, here's K.P. with a wonderful Old Testament example of trusting in the Lord. The twelve people went to spy out the land. They said the truth.

Ten of them said impossible, giants, impossible. But Joshua and Caleb saw the God of the giants. Faith is not against reason, it is beyond reason.

My brothers and sisters, when we face the onslaught of the enemy, struggles and problems and difficulties, or tremendous challenge before us beyond our imagination, to find answers let us not be like Philip. I repeat, let us not be like Philip. Let us be childlike in our response.

Faith is the key for the God to do the impossible through us. Logic says it cannot be done, but faith says no problem. We all live by our experience from past and present, and then we listen to others and we say there's no way we can handle it.

What are you praying for? What are the struggles you are facing at this time? What is that one thing or two or 10, 20, 30, whatever you're saying, I don't see how I can handle it. Well, you only know where you are. For our brothers on the mission field, some places it's the opposition and the problems we face.

We sometimes do not know what to do. Maybe it's the worry and care you live with about your future. Maybe a bunch of people, unsaved relatives that you've been praying and praying and nothing seems to happen.

How can this be? Well, the simplest answer is by faith. You know, the people who experience the least miracles, I sometimes think are the people who know the Bible so much. We are educated, and finally, God is not in the picture.

Never can forget about the man who wrote me a letter, which you may have heard it. I like to say it again because I like to hear it. He had some problems with his lungs, went to the hospital, and part of his lung

was taken out.

Now he got part of it, and as time went by, he hardly can breathe anymore. But he had the childlike heart, not so complicated. When he heard me on the radio, Jesus is right there with you in your bedroom, in the kitchen.

He's there with you in the hospital room. He's right there. Why don't you cry out to him? He's able.

He can forgive you and save you, and he can heal you also. And I will quote a bunch of Bible verses. And if you believe, I will pray for you.

Why don't you cry out to Jesus? He writes, I prayed with you. I felt so well. He went to the hospital.

They took the x-ray, new one. The Lord created brand new, full, perfect lungs for him. I read that and say, it cannot be! God cannot do things like that, because my logic don't agree with it.

Science don't agree with it. But the poor man was not brainwashed by theologians. He simply believed.

Simply believed. My brothers and sisters, let us, let us learn to trust God and stand on his promises that he gave us in his word. They saw so much, yet they could not open their hearts.

Let's move on. Finally, Jesus takes this little fish and bread. I mean, that little boy, I tell you what, I admire him.

How old he was, I don't know. How, what did they do to get that from him? They tricked him, I think. A little boy trying to, I mean, he didn't come and say, oh here, take it.

No, I think the disciple Andrew or Phil, somebody must have told him a bunch of stories and somehow they got it and gave to Jesus. The nameless little boy surrendered everything he had. He didn't say, what do you want to do with this thing? We're going to feed 5,000 people and more.

Wow, I don't think so. This is just enough for me. He just gave it.

Can we do the same thing? The Lord took the little and he blessed it and he gave it to his disciples. You remember that? He gave it to his disciples and the disciples to these people and they were fed full stomach, leftover, tall baskets. Can you just imagine one of the disciples saying, you know what, man, I'm so glad there's one basket full and look at all these thousands of people.

If I'm going to distribute this in the end, I will have nothing left. So I will run with it. That's what many people do.

They began to give it out. You know what, whatever the Lord gives to you, give it away. You want to be blessed, bless others.

Give, it shall be given to you in full measure, pressed down and running over. You want forgiveness, forgive. You want love, give love.

You want people to smile at you, smile. This is the way our life is. The more you give, the more you receive.

Don't hold things so tightly for yourself. Give it away, whatever that is. Before we pray, just a few applications.

One, trials, needs are often God's way of testing us to see where we are on the inside. Grow in faith and trust Him completely. Two, God is deeply concerned about the suffering, injustice and poverty.

Let us become agents of His concern and trust Him to meet our needs also. Number three, we grow into spiritual maturity through struggles. Therefore, don't despise it.

It was to stretch Andrews and his disciples, Philip's, everyone's faith, Jesus did it. Number four, spending time alone with God is the key to being prepared to face life's struggles. Number five, our natural mind is the enemy of faith.

Therefore, train your mind to think thoughts based on the word of God. Number six, do what you can. Andrew did what he was able to do.

The boy did what he could do. And the Lord will do the impossible. Number seven, surrendering what little we have will result in great blessings for us and others.

Therefore, surrender all to Him. Number eight, don't hold back. Give it away and you will be blessed a hundredfold.

Number nine, when God uses us, make sure we don't take the glory. Number ten, walk away from the temptation, seeking for man's honor. They sought to make Jesus their king.

After this miracle and buried there, he walked away. He didn't want to give in to their words. He sought the Father's glory in all that he did.

Nine great lessons then to take with us and apply. You are listening to The Road to Reality. And as we've been encouraged by Jesus Christ today, maybe you can do with further encouragement yourself.

Well, Brother KP has written a booklet by the title of Be Encouraged that we'd love to send you. The suggested donation for the book is £1.50 plus post and packing. You can order it from our website or would you call us at 0800 032 8717.

And please don't forget to join Gospel for Asia and Brother KP on the 22nd of August for renewing your passion over there in Belfast. You can find more or get your booklet at gfauk.org. Got it? gfauk.org. Our free phone number is 0800 032 8717. Thanks for that, KP, and thank you, my friend, for joining us for The Road to Reality with KP Yohannan.

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