

Remember

So that we don't forget important things to do, we make ourselves lists, post notes in places we will see them, set the alarm on our cell phone, ask others to remind us, or tie strings to our fingers. In today's Templates of Truth, Jesus compels us to remember some important things.

Jesus and His disciples had boarded their boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. After leaving, they discovered that *they had forgotten to take bread; and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them* (Mark 8:14). They began stressing over the fact that there was not enough bread to share among all of them. Mark states: *And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand?...Do you not remember?"* (Mark 8:17-18). Their reaction to the dilemma was amazing in light of what they had just experienced with Jesus in recent days.

Mark records two accounts where Jesus fed 5,000 men, plus women & children on one occasion (Mark 6:34-44), and 4,000 persons on another occasion (Mark 8:1-9). Miraculously, He accomplished the first feast with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and the second He accomplished with only seven loaves and a few small fish. When the first feast was over, twelve baskets of leftovers were gathered, and seven baskets were gathered from the second. Now, how can someone forget such amazing manifestations of divine, supernatural ability? Yet, here were these twelve men, all of whom witnessed first-hand these two extraordinary miracles, on a boat in the middle of the sea arguing over how they are going to split a single piece of bread among all of them. Jesus, the very guy who performed those miracles, is sitting right there in the boat with them! The scene brings a whole new meaning to the expression, "DUH!"

So, what are you stressing about today? What need is big in your life that has only a small amount of resource you can apply to it? The question Jesus posed to His twelve disciples is the same question God begs you to consider in light of your circumstances: *"Do you not remember?"* When we face challenges in life that seem insurmountable, we often allow them to overwhelm us with anxiety, fear, doubt and insecurity. We get all caught up in our dilemma, thinking the least and expecting the worst. In the midst of it all, we forget God! We act insultingly clueless to all the experiences of the past when God showed up and came through for us. What makes it so astonishing, is that God is here, right in the middle of this dilemma with us, and we have forgotten His supernatural, miraculous ability and how He has so faithfully demonstrated that ability in our lives throughout the past. How perplexing!

Jesus would have us take a little trip down memory lane with Him. Along the way, He would show us the times and places where He provided for us, rescued us, protected us, guided us and held us up when we didn't know if or how we would ever make it. He would allow us to relive the moments when in weakness, He strengthened us; when in heaviness, He lifted us; when in despair, He encouraged us; and when in desperation, He provided for us. We would remember the times when we felt most isolated and alone, He was our sustaining companion. We would be

reminded of the moments when our heart was breaking, He was our soothing comforter. We would remember our God.

Oh that one of those men had just risen to the occasion and said, “Hey, boys, hold on here! What are we doing? We have just seen Jesus, here, feed 20,000+ people with a few fish and a couple of loaves of bread with more than enough left over for all of us! So, why are we fretting over this one little piece of bread? If Jesus, here, can do all that for all of them, then surely He can take care of our little group out here in this little boat. Don’t you think?” If one of them had done that, somehow I feel like Jesus would have smiled with divine pride and honored that man’s faith and confidence in Him. Those boys would have had a feast that would have brought a whole new meaning to the Biblical expression: “cast your bread upon the water!”

As we embark upon a new year, uncertainties loom on the horizon with as much potential as great opportunities do. We don’t know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future. We don’t know what or how much we will have in the midst of things, but we know little is much when God is in it. God has never failed us in the past, and He will never fail us in the future. All we have to do is REMEMBER.

That’s today’s Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide in Christ. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in the Lord Jesus.

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