

JESUS STYLE LEADERSHIP

THE LESSON OF THE LOAVES

May 3, 2009

FBC Port A

John 6:1-15 NLT *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 about 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. When the people saw Him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, He is the Prophet we have been expecting!" When Jesus saw that they were ready to force Him to be their king, He slipped away into the hills by Himself.*

John 6:5-6 NLT *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.*

Lesson #1: The yardstick lesson

Do not measure a problem or challenge according to your own abilities.

John 6:7 NLT *Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!"*

Why Jesus loves impossible circumstances

- Because it provides a perfect test.
- God puts us in impossible situations to stretch our undeveloped faith.
- God puts us in impossible situations to strengthen our eternal hope.
- God puts us in impossible situations to show His incredible love.

Lesson #2: The scales lesson

Little in the hands of Jesus becomes much.

John 6:8-9 NLT *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?"*

John 6:10-11 NLT *"Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 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.*

How God makes our little into His much

Jdg 7:7 NLT *The LORD told Gideon, "With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home."*

1Sam 17:50 NLT *So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.*

- God **reduces** our resources.
- God **magnifies** our need.
- Someone **trusts** God with what little they have.
- God **uses** the little we have to show how great He is.

Lesson #3: The ledger sheet lesson

Every encounter with a problem or challenge can bring an increase

John 6:12-13 NLT *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.*

Mar 6:51-52 NLT *Then He climbed into the boat, and the wind stopped. They were totally amazed, for they still didn't understand the significance of the miracle of the loaves. Their hearts were too hard to take it in.*



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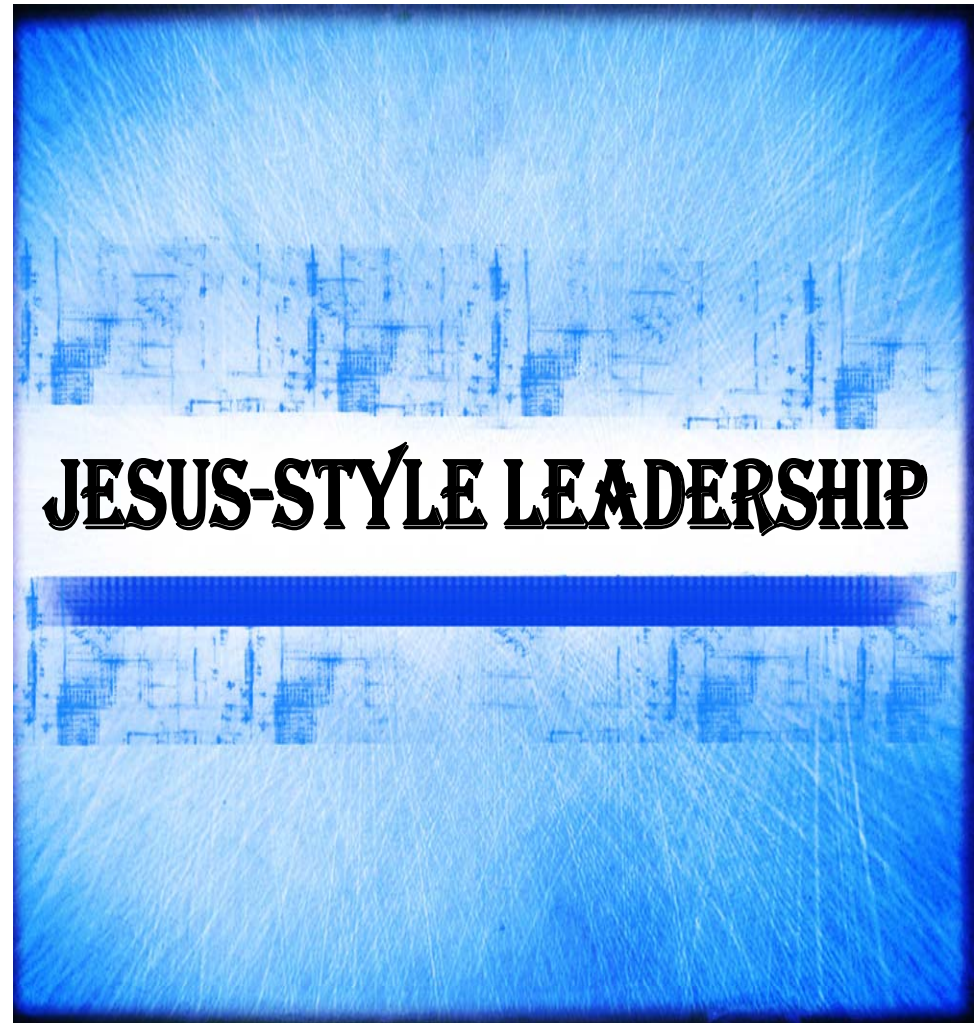
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