

LEARNING TO SHARE

Lesson by Ray Reynolds (5/4/2013)
Forsyth church of Christ (Forsyth, MO)
Text: John 6:1-15

Introduction: Do you know the difference between the stories of the feeding of the 4,000 and 5,000? This story is told in all four gospels, but we are going to study the story as it is recorded by John. Let's study the meaning of this story together. . . .

Discussion:

I. God Intimately Shares With His People

Moses (**Exodus 3:11; Hebrews 11:26**).
David (**Psalms 40:17; 70:5; 86:1; 109:22**).
John the Baptizer (**Matthew 3:4**).
Jesus (**Matthew 8:20**).

II. God Informed His People To Share

Sabbath year (**Exodus 23:10-11**).
Differing requirements for the atonement of lepers (**Leviticus 14:1-18**).
The corners of the field, gleanings of the vineyards (**Leviticus 19:9-10; Ruth 2:1ff**).
Unclaimed goods sold, returned at Year of Jubilee (**Leviticus 25:25-28**).

III. God Inspired His People To Share

It is a sign of true commitment (**Matthew 19:21**).
It is a sign of faith (**Luke 14:13-14**).
It is a product of love (**I Corinthians 13:3**).
It is a reason why we work at our chosen vocations (**Ephesians 4:28**).

IV. God Instituted Sharing in His Work

Zacchaeus (**Luke 19:8**).
Macedonians (**Romans 15:26; II Corinthians 8:1ff**).
Paul (**Galatians 2:10**).
Jesus (**Philippians 2:5-8; II Corinthians 8:9**).

V. God Inwardly Changes Us When We Share

We learn to realign our priorities (**Matthew 6:33**).
We understand the blessings (**I Corinthians 15:1-2**).
We do not lose heart (**Galatians 6:9**).
We press on toward the mark (**Philippians 3:12-14**).

Conclusion: The story clearly reveals that when people share their blessings, many can benefit. God is able to use small things to make a big difference. Most of us only give God a limited amount of our time, our talents, and our money, but what would happen if we all shared more? Are you ready to share?