THE LORD OF THE LITTLE

**DATE: 7/15/18 - SS**

**TEXT: Mark 6:35-44**

**INTRODUCTION**

When we think of God, we often think of Him in terms of the *Grand*, the *Great* and the *Glorious*

After all …

*-- He is the God of Creation*

He stood in the middle of nowhere, took nothing, and created everything

That's Big!

*-- He's also the God of Revelation*

He sent His perfect Word through human instruments, giving us a perfect, inspired record of His Words to man

On top of that, He has Perfectly Preserved that Word to this very day

That's Big!

*-- He's also the God of Salvation*

God sent His Son Jesus into this world to die for sin and for sinners

When Jesus went to the cross,

He opened a way that all that would come to Him at God's invitation could be saved

God even set it up so that those who came would have all their sins forgiven;

They would be adopted into His family; and they would all go to Heaven to live with Him when they leave this world

Now, that's big!

There is no question that we serve a God …

-- Who Specializes in the Spectacular

-- Who Majors in the Miraculous (and)

-- Who Operates in Omnipotence

But, I would also point out that He is also *Lord of the Little*!

He's a God Who moves in Big Ways,

But He is also a God Who is able to take the small, insignificant things of life and use them for His glory

This passage of Mark reveals *The Lord of the Little* in Action

As we watch Jesus feed the multitudes,

We need to remember that the One Who accomplished this miracle is still Lord today

What He did then, He can do now

He was the Lord of the little on that day and He is still the Lord of the little today

Let's look in on this special miracle and see how …

(And by the way, it must have been very special …

Because it's the only miracle of Jesus that is mentioned by all four Gospel writers)

… There's help here for us that we don't want to miss

Let me show you some *examples* from this text where we see Jesus (not only the Lord of the Big)

But also – **"THE LORD OF THE LITTLE"**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, we see that Jesus wants to be Lord of …

**I. OUR LITTLE "FEARS" – vs. 35,36**

**A. The Context**

**1.** The people have followed Jesus to the other side of the lake

**v. 33 – *"And the people saw them departing, and many knew Him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto Him"***

**2.** Jesus then spends the day teaching them, and the time flies by

**vs. 34 b, 35 a – *"and He began to teach them many things" "And when the day was now far spent…"***

**3.** The disciples then come to Jesus and interrupt Him

They remind Him that it's getting late and that He should send the people away so they can find food

**vs. 35 b, 36 – *"… His disciples came unto Him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed:" "Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat"***

These men are Afraid that the people will not be able to find any food to eat if the hour grows any later

Who are they really concerned for?

Evidently, they are tired and hungry themselves and they assume that the people must be as well

After all, the crowds had followed Jesus as soon as He left the other side of the lake and it seems that no one thought to bring food

Now, they are ten miles away from home

They are in an isolated location

They are in a place where no food can be found

The disciples say, “*Lord, You've been preaching long enough! Dismiss the service and let these people go find some food!*”

The disciples are filled with Doubt and Fear

If Jesus keeps this up, none of them are going to get to eat!

So, they go to Him Expressing these Doubts and Fears

**B. A Few Questions**

* Do you ever look at the situations you face in life and become afraid and full of doubt?
* Do you look at a lost family member and wonder if they will ever be saved?

* Do you ever look at a physical need and wonder if it will be all right or if it will lead to something worse?

* Are you ever afraid to open the mail box because it might contain an unexpected bill?

* Are you ever afraid to answer the phone because it might be bad news?
* Do you ever scan the days of your life and wonder how much time you have left?

* Do you ever look at the condition of the world and become afraid, wondering how it will all turn out?

What I’m asking is this: Do you ever have Fears?

The answer to that is, of course we do! We all do!

Being afraid of the unknown is part of living life

Having doubts and concerns is nothing to be ashamed of; it is something we all deal with

The problem arises when we become like the disciples

They were in the presence of the Lord of Glory, but they didn't believe that He could handle the situation

But just think what He has done already before them

-- In Chapter 1

He healed a man of an unclean spirit – **vs. 23-28**

He healed Peter's mother-in-law of a fever – **vs. 29-31**

He cleansed a leper – **vs. 40-42**

-- In Chapter 2

He healed the man with palsy – **vs. 1-12**

-- In Chapter 3

He heals a man with a withered hand – **vs. 1-5**

He anoints the Twelve – **vs. 13-19**

-- In Chapter 4

He stills the storm - **vs. 35-41**

-- In Chapter 5

He delivers the man possessed of the Legion of Devils **– vs. 1-20**

He raises Jairus' daughter from death – **vs. 35-43**

Yet, to their eyes, this looked impossible

They were not coming to Jesus by Faith; they were coming to Him in Fear!

They were saying, in so many words, “*Lord, this problem is greater than You are! We don't think You can handle it! You had better send these folks away, or we are all going to be in trouble!*”

You may have never said those words, but you and I have acted that way

We fret and worry over our problems and we are filled with doubts concerning the Lord's ability to solve them

Instead of coming to Jesus with a heart that says,

“*Lord, I believe in You! I know this is a big problem to me, but it is nothing for You!*”

We carry our problems around and allow them to drain the spiritual life right out of us

I would just remind you that all worry is sin

**Romans 14:23 – *"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin"***

I would also remind you that the Lord has commanded us to trust Him in the times of Fear and to refuse to allow worry a place in our lives

**Philippians 4:6,7 – *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"***

**Matthew 6:31,33 – *"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"***

**C. Jesus is the Lord of all our Fears**

Now, I know what you're thinking

You’re thinking, “*Preacher, you don't know my fears!*

*They are anything but little! They are huge! They are gigantic! They are impossible!*

That is the same attitude the ten spies had when they went into Canaan and saw the giants there

**Numbers 13:32,33 – *"And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature" "And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight"***

It's the attitude that says - *“God ain't Big enough"*

Regardless of the fears we may have today, they are little when they are placed next to the Lord

If He can create the universe out of nothing; surely He can meet our need!

If He can keep Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the fire of the furnace, He can take care of us!

If He can secure Daniel in the lion's den, He can take care of us!

If He can feed three million Jews in the desert for forty years, He can take care of us!

If He can defeat sin, death, Hell, the grave and Satan using an old rugged cross and an empty tomb, He can take care of us!

If He can save me from my sin, He can take care of you!

Whatever you fear today, bring it to Him, and leave it in His hand

He's more than able to take care of us,

**Ephesians 3:20 – *"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"***

Jesus is the Lord of the little, even our Fears!

**OUR LITTLE “FEARS”**

Next, let’s look at …

**II. OUR LITTLE "FAITH" – vs. 37,38**

***“He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto Him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?” “He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes”***

When Jesus hears their fears, He says –

*“You feed them!”*

He is using a direct order!

He is saying - *“If they are hungry, give them something to eat!”*

This command is immediately met with an expression of absolute disbelief

From John's Gospel, we know that Philip is the one who speaks

**John 6:7 – *“Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little”***

A ***“penny”*** refers to the denarius, which was a day's wages for the average worker

It would have taken the average worker eight months to earn the amount of money Philip is talking about

In modern terms it was about $10,000.00

It was more money than they had and more than could …

… ever hope to collect on short notice

What Philip is saying is –

*“Lord, even if we had $10,000.00 we couldn't satisfy all these people. We couldn't even give them a little. It's impossible!”*

Let’s look at some thoughts here

**A. Their Obstruction**

Jesus said, “*Feed them!*”

The disciple answered and said, “*We can't! We don't have the resources. This a problem that cannot be solved!*”

These men considered their problem and they summed it up as insurmountable!

In their eyes, they were facing an impossible challenge

It didn't matter that they had already seen Jesus turn water into wine; heal lepers; cast out legions of demons; calm violet storms; heal people with incurable diseases; and raise the dead

It didn't matter that He had proven Himself to them more times than they could probably remember

All that mattered at the moment was the obstacle they saw before their eyes

They looked at the need and they said, “*We can't, and we don't believe that You can either!*”

That's Little Faith!

**B. Their Obstruction is Our Obstructions**

But, let's not be too hard on these fellas

We are as bad, or worse, than they are!

Let me ask you a question

-- “*Has God ever failed you?*

*-- “Have you ever had a genuine need that He didn't meet?”*

*-- “Have you ever seen Him fail to keep one promise that He ever made?*”

(Sorry that's three questions)

But the fact is, God has never failed us and He never will

Didn't He save your soul and change your life when you asked Him to by faith?

Didn't He forgive your sins and replace the turmoil in your soul with His sweet peace, just because you cried out in faith?

Hasn't He given you assurance after assurance that you belong to Him and that it is well with your soul?

If He can do that, it seems to me that He can do anything!

How much faith did you have when you came to Him for salvation?

Did you have great faith on that day, or was your faith small, frail and limited?

It was the smallest faith of all

You didn't even have any faith until He gave it to you,

**Ephesians 2:8 – *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”***

Yet that small faith was sufficient to connect you to a big God Who was able to save you on the basis of that faith

When your tiny faith touched His boundless grace, you were saved forever!

**C. We Don’t Need Great Faith**

It doesn't take great faith to get big answers from God

Consider the following truths …

**Matthew 17:20 - “… *If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you”***

**Mark 9:23,24 –**(The father of the demon possessed child) ***“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth” “And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief,*”**

**Matthew 21:21, 22 - “*Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done” “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive*”**

God will honor Little Faith!

He is the Lord of Little Faith

But, He can do nothing with unbelief

**James 1:6,7 - “*But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed” “For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord,*”**

When we act like the disciples and look at the problem instead of to Problem Solver

We can expect nothing but failure

However, when we believe God, even for the impossible, we will see Him do the incredible time after time

I think of Gideon and his army of 300 in **Judges 7**

Jesus is the Lord of the Little, even Little Faith!

**OUR LITTLE “FEARS”**

**OUR LITTLE “FAITH”**

**III. THE LITTLE BIT OF “FOOD” – vs. 39-44 …**

After their display of faithlessness, Jesus asks His men to go and see how much food they have

**v. 38 – *“He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see”***

We know from John's account that all the food that was available in that vast crowd was the small lunch of a young boy

**John 6:8,9 – *“One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto Him,” “There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?”***

All he had was **“*five loaves and two fishes*”**

The loaves were not big, long loaves of bread either

Rather, they were small round pieces of flat bread

About the same size of a biscuit!

The fish were not trophy bass or 700 lb. Yellow Fin Tuna

They were salted fish the size of a sardine

When they return with that small amount, the disciples, (this time it is Andrew) expresses even more doubt

He says - **“*What are they among so many*?”**

These fellows have sized up the crowd and the provisions

and they have decided that there just isn't enough!

And, from a human perspective, they are right!

Watch the text! Jesus doesn't even flinch

In **v. 39** He commands the people to sit down in **“*companies*”**

This word literally means *In rows like vegetables in a garden*

Jesus has the people sit down in orderly rows

Their colorful garments making them look like a garden in bloom

(That little tidbit doesn't add much to our understanding of the text, but it does remind us that our God is a God of order!)

Then, Jesus **“*takes*”** the five loaves and the two fish

He lifts His face toward Heaven and He blesses the food

By the way, Jesus is not upset that the provisions are so meager

He is not bothered by the small amount of food

He took what was given to Him and He began to break it

The words **“*brake*”** and **“*gave*”** are important

They indicate that *He kept on breaking and He kept on giving*

Jesus took those little biscuits and sardines …

… and they were multiplied in His hands

He just kept on breaking them and giving them to His disciples and the loaves and fish kept on multiplying

Jesus exercised His creative power to accomplish this miracle

To feed five thousand men plus women and children,

It would have required them to empty their baskets and return to Jesus for refills

Every time they came back, they probably expected to find that Jesus has run out of food

But, He never did!

He kept breaking and giving until every person in the crowd was filled

And, when the disciples took of the leftovers, there were twelve baskets full

One for every doubting disciple!

**A. The Lord Has More Than Enough**

That’s all I am trying to get you to see today!

He can take the little that you give Him and do miracles with it!

That mother who packed that little lunch that day had no idea that it would be used to feed as many as 20,000

Jesus just took what was available and multiplied it for His glory!

When we give what we have to Him, He will amaze us with what He can do with it!

When this situation arose, the question from Jesus was,

“*How are we going to handle this*”

**John 6:5 – *“When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”***

There were four responses to that questions

**1.** Let's get rid of the problem

**2.** We need more money

**3.** We might have some, bit it’s not enough

**4.** Or Finally, Let Jesus have it

**B. Jesus takes what Little we have and Multiplies it**

If we can ever learn to bring our little to Jesus and let Him have it,

He can use it in a great way for His glory!

Bring your little faith to Him and watch Him move your mountains

Bring your little testimony and watch Him save souls

Bring your little praise and watch Him get glory

Bring your little abilities to Him and watch Him use you

He specializes in using the small things to amaze men and to reveal His glory

He used the cry of a little baby to bring peace to Abraham

He used a little stick in the hand of Moses to part the Rea Sea and deliver His people from Pharaoh

He used a little boy named David who slung a little stone to remove a big giant

He used a little piece of bread called Manna to feed His people for forty years

He used a little leather mantle to part the Jordan River for Elijah and Elisha

He used a little widow with a little meal and a little oil to take care of the man of God

He used a little girl name Mary to bring a little baby into the world, Who would grow up and die on a little cross on a little hill in a little country called Israel

But, in His death, He would provide salvation to all who will receive Him!

Who knows what He will do with your Little if you can just get it into His hands!

**C. Let’s Bring our Little to Jesus**

Do you have some little something that you need to bring to the Master today?

Bring your little and watch Him transform it into a lot!

That is His specialty!

Let's just make one thing clear today

Jesus could have fed the multitude with nothing

He could have made bread and fish float down from the clouds on purple parachutes if He had wanted to

He chose to use what was given to Him for His glory

Bring your little and place it in His hands today

He will take it and use it in ways you could never imagine

Bring your little talents and abilities and watch Him use you

Bring your little gifts and watch Him multiply them for His glory

Bring your little self and watch Him use you

God specializes in taking these frail, clay bodies and using them for His glory

Without Him, I am just a cracked pot

With Him, I can be a vessel of honor to the glory of God