

All Things Are Possible!

John 6:3-6 “And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. 4 And the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. 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? 6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.” Jesus and the disciples were resting after ministering to multitudes. The word ‘sat’ in verse three means ‘reclined, taking a break.’ Jesus looked up and saw a ‘great company’ coming toward them again. He took this moment to test His disciples. What have they learned from following the Master? Jesus asked Phillip, “Where are we going to buy bread?” Phillip said, “Two hundred pennyworths is not enough to buy even if each one ate a little!” He was saying, what market would even have enough for these 5000 men not counting women and children.

Verse 6 “And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.” Jesus wanted to ‘prove’ Phillip. Prove means to “put to the test, expose the truth about the quality of a substance.” This same Greek word used here is used when describing purifying fires placed under molten metal. Metal looks strong but only a blazing fire exposes any hidden flaws. Once exposed, they can be fixed. Jesus asked Phillip this question to expose any flaws or deficiencies in his faith. The disciples had been with Jesus for a while. They all had seen many miracles. They hadn’t seen Jesus feed a multitude but they knew He had thus far always provided for every situation that came up.

In verse 7, the disciples wanted to relax and let the people go buy their own bread. But, they knew Jesus well enough that He wanted an answer to His question. Andrew said, “There’s a boy who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what is that when there is so many.” In other words, “How can the problem be fixed by what I know and what I see?” Have you ever said this? New challenges often expose a deficiency in our faith and accentuate weak areas in our life. James 2:17, 26 “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone”, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Back to John 6:6 “And this He said to prove him: for He himself knew what He would do.” Jesus knew the answer; He knew what He was going to do. Jesus wanted to let Phillip know where he

was lacking in faith, not to embarrass him but to show him a weak area in his faith life. Jesus knew Phillip would need this faith in his future ministry.

Acts 8:5-8 “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city.”

Acts 8:26-40 “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said how can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? For his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? Of himself, or of some other man?

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.” Look at Phillip now!

We can't be surprised if Jesus asks us to do something that seems impossible to our natural minds. He expects us to take a leap of faith. His request may expose the fact that our faith needs building up in an area. He already knows what to do. We just need to trust Him and follow His direction. Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever. Check your faith in an area. Do you believe what you read in the Word? – Big faith. Can it happen today? – Bigger faith. Can it change my situation? – Biggest faith. Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Phillip heard the Word – he lived with the Word (Jesus), yet he continually needed more. We need to continually hear the Word, meditate on it day and night and apply it. Exercising our faith is like exercising a muscle. Some of our muscles are stronger than others. It all depends on how much we use them. Sometimes we don't realize how weak a muscle is until we try to use it. For every challenge we face, the Word has an answer. Search for it, believe it and apply it!

