

"It's Out of My Hands"
Speaker: Tim Bittle

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 1. one section of questions
 2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

INTRODUCTION

Seeds should be sown with the expectation that a harvest will result in due season. Really, the fruit of just one seed can be so powerful, that it can radically change lives: one child added to a family, one revolutionary thought to change an industry, one dynamic leader to influence the masses. It comes down to our choice of where to sow seed that really defines the future. God will let us sow our seed wherever we want, but the full potential of blessing comes when we scatter seed on God soil, leaning on God to provide the growth.

If the seed remains in the barn or in one's hand, nothing results. If the seed is sown, it can multiply thousands over!

MESSAGE

[Matthew 14.13-21]

As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them." "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered. "Bring them here," he said. Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!

Hopelessness, and dependency on God, always paves the way to the miraculous.

Four Principles of Miraculous Multiplication:

1. Don't trust your eyes.

- Once we set our eyes on it, we can begin to think we "have to have it!"
- Your eyes can talk you into some crazy things.
- In Matthew 14, when the disciples saw the crowd, they saw the impossibility of the Master's request.

Your eyes can affect the condition of your heart. You have got to have the perspective of God on life matters.

2. Hand it over.

Multiplication always starts with a small, seemingly insignificant seed.

- This is different from just letting it go; "letting it go" is passive, while "handing it over" is an active, intentional decision.
- Jesus is moved with compassion, even when we are not.
- Jesus is not concerned with what we don't have; just hand over what we do have.

The reason we do not like placing things in God's hands is because it is no longer in ours.

3. Let God bless it.

The blessing is found in the brokenness.

- You have to let Him hold it.
- There's safety in leaving it in His hands.
- There's brokenness involved in leaving things in the hands of the Master?

4. Do what He says.

- It does not look any different, until you are obedient with what God has told you.
- Rationing: Someone always gets cheated, and someone is still hungry.

[2 Corinthians 9.10-11]

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it so important where you sow your seed?
2. What seeds have you been entrusted with by God, and what are you doing with them? (i.e. family, money, opportunities, talents, life)
3. When you gaze at your life, does it stir up *faith* or *defeat*?
4. What's something in your life right now that you realize you need God's perspective on? Do you see your life through the filter of a BIG GOD or watered down to the limitations of your skewed vision?
5. What does it look like for you to actually "let God hold what you have given Him?"