



## The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 43 "Satisfaction through Sacrifice" By Pastor Jody May

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### Luke 9:10-17 ESV

#### Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

<sup>10</sup>On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. <sup>11</sup>When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. <sup>12</sup>Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." <sup>13</sup>But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." <sup>14</sup>For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." <sup>15</sup>And they did so, and had them all sit down. <sup>16</sup>And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. <sup>17</sup>And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

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#### Introduction:

Satisfaction only comes through Sacrifice...

#### 1. Jesus knows your need and acts on it way before you do.

<sup>10</sup>On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and **withdrew** apart to a town called Bethsaida.

The disciples had just gotten back and we are told in vs. 6 they had been preaching the Gospel and healing wherever they went and this action had gotten Herod's attention in vs. 9. This was not a weekend excursion probably more like going away for summer camp. They were sent out with no provisions, but Jesus wanted them to build faith not based on their means but based on believing God would provide. That was the main reason for their journey, it was their practicum part of their experience.



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I can imagine, that for these men, these 12 ordinary, non-educated, that appeared less holy than the Pharisees, were wanting to share with Jesus not just their victories but their stories of how people responded to the good news of the kingdom being preached to them. Can you imagine 12 dudes that have been filled with the HS, had been experiencing the provision of God, all they want to do probably is compare notes, tell stories, and dream about what this may mean for their country. I mean I can relate it takes my family time every day to debrief just from being in 3 different schools. ***BTW Daddy's after school and before bed is important for you to be home, that's when you're needed the most.***

In the midst of all of this Jesus knows more than anything what they need, they need to get away, connect with God in prayer, glorify Him, and recover emotionally and spiritually from what just happened. I know this much. ***It's like being a parent when your child begins to have that meltdown and you realize you have gone an hour over feeding and sleep time, your kid needs their recharge.*** Comparably to every Sunday I am usually feeling good, even if my sermon was cruddy, because there is a sense of accomplishment. But on Monday, my brain doesn't work right until dinner time, it is because the emotionally charged up battery was drained, and I am not myself sometimes. I say that to compare with these dudes, ***that have been preaching non-stop for weeks, with success and failures as the most aggressive church planters of all time.*** Jesus saw the bottom coming and wanted to get them to refuel and recover.

***I think most of us don't realize that living for God, for His Kingdom is tiring work.*** I see it in some of the folks that I spend more time with here. Whenever there is a season of activity, I see them rev up and then I always see a dip in their activity level because pushing against the world to live for Christ, to seek holiness, to seek to build His kingdom is tiresome. God has made us this way because ***some of the sweetest times of building up***, being renewed by His presence, catching that verse that drills into your heart, reading that book that changed your perspective, that conversation that was long overdue with a mentor, happens when you are in need of the nourishment that only Jesus can provide.

Just something to be aware of today. Many of you would say you are tired all the time, but I would ask you whose kingdom have you been trying to build?

**Why are we tired?...**



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**The Gospel is that it does not matter whether your batteries are drained though from life being lived for your glory or life being lived for God's Glory but Jesus knows what you need and is willing to fill you up, but are you ready to accept what He wants to give you?**

Well at this point, wouldn't you know it, before this sweet time of recharge though there is a disruption, **people seem to always get in the way**. Here's the kicker and the call to obedience this morning.

### **2. Our needs are always subordinate when God's Glory needs to be revealed.**

The scripture tells us that Jesus and the disciples were followed into the wilderness. We don't know how much time if any that the disciples had with Christ before the crowd approached them. **What we can see in the text though is who is doing the ministering, it's not the Apostles it's Jesus (v.11)**. It was His desire to heal them and preach about the Kingdom. Jesus is fully charged, he might have finally gotten that nice nap on that Galilean Cruise he was trying to grab in chapter 8, I don't know but He is ready to work, because it's a chance to reveal God's Glory. These people had heard or possibly had even been ministered to by His Apostles, this is a good opportunity to see if there are some believers in the bunch!

The fellas graciously put up with the interruption, they give up their quiet time, their bonding time, that personal recharge time a little while longer so Jesus could do some work. **I don't know though it seems to me, that if you have been sent out as the Apostles why are you sitting back now and letting Jesus do the work and not you?** It never fails, that time that you protected for yourself, that sitting down to watch the game, grilling that meat you have been tasting all week, reading that book you have been wanting to start for a year, binging on Netflix, going to that local festival to walk around and lose yourself in, **but it SEEMS like it never fails there is someone always trying to intervene on your quiet time/you're recharge.**

Then it seems like in the middle of Jesus being busy they come up and speak truth to Him.

**<sup>12</sup> "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place."**

Jesus, we need to manage this event you threw together at the last moment, these folks got to eat dismiss them already. I mean what you are talking about is good but what they need is food.



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<sup>13</sup> But he said to them, "You give them something to eat."

Yeah, you're right, you know why don't you, let me keep ministering, and you take care of their food because you have the same power I have and you probably see what God is trying to do here.

**The clue to what Jesus is doing is laid out here is why you may be a little tired there is something more important going on than what you know.**

They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." <sup>14</sup> For there were about five thousand men.

Alright, we see they already had planned this out, they actually counted the crowd, did some research and discovered they have enough for a like two bites each for all of them. Enough to give them some energy for whatever Jesus wanted next. Lord we have gone to this point with the provisions God provided because that is what you taught us.

And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." <sup>15</sup> And they did so, and had them all sit down.

They have learned this much about Faith, "because you say so". They don't get mad, but they expect Him to do something about it.

. <sup>16</sup> And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.

**Jesus begins to demonstrate the power of Creation right before their eyes again!** Hopefully they are beginning to see the clue to who He really was. Every time Jesus does a healing He restores, He doesn't just cure disease He makes lame people walk, the blind see, the dead rise, this is the power that only God has, and now He is multiplying at a cellular level matter to make food for everyone. It's the power of creation that points back to Genesis. He is God, therefore His desire to do a thing over their need to rest is more important and is more beneficial for it reveals God's true nature.



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Maybe you think you never get a break but maybe your lesson today is to see that doing the work of God is what you really need to do because discovering you are living in mission with Jesus is truly the most satisfying work you will ever have!

What is the net result of this sacrifice, the push to keep going just a little longer before rest?

### **3. Jesus will always have enough for you, especially when seeing to the needs of others.**

<sup>17</sup> And they all ate and were **satisfied**. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

*Chortazō* khor-tä'-zō; satisfying, filling, to fatten an animal up. All of the crowd ate, men and their families yes that means 15-20K, were filled up like the fattening of animals and left over was not one but 12 baskets of food – one for each Apostle.

#### **Please notice:**

Jesus didn't just give the people a taste they were satisfied like they had been to the buffet.

Jesus provides for the twelve what they were fearing they would miss; a full meal, a sustaining, celebratory, meal.

Jesus blesses the Apostles with the grand finale of what they had been doing, you have been preaching about the Kingdom of God by which all men will be fed, and I just proved it to the very people you have been talking to; the kingdom is here, you were right, and all your haters will now know.

Jesus didn't need to eat for He had food that they knew not of, to do the will of the Father (Jn. 4:32).

This is the only miracle outside the resurrection that is found in all four Gospels all using the same word for Satisfying. **It is important for us to know that all the stories by all the writers of the Gospel, all the witnesses, and by the influence of the HS that Jesus will always have enough for you even when you're tired and even when you don't think it is possible.**



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### Summary of our Points and lessons this morning:

#### **Jesus meets our needs Satisfaction through Sacrifice for others.**

First my family let me just point out that you are never the one that is doing the major Sacrifice for others, but it is Jesus that does the Sacrificing.

Those people were not fed by the Apostle's power but by Jesus'.

For this story to make any sense we have to see what it points to as we will look more in-depth next week also looking at Jn. 6 is **that is the future sacrifice of His life through the cross.**

This lesson is to teach us that the most satisfying thing man could ever have, is to be filled with the life that comes from Christ. He gave His life, He sacrificed His flesh, He suffered our humiliation, paid in blood for our sins, He satisfied not just our need for a Savior, but He satisfied fully and completely the wrath of God the need for justice for the Universe. This lesson only makes sense if you see it for what it is. **Jesus Satisfies all our needs by His Sacrifice for us.**

And my loved ones the way we experience the revelation, to come to the full knowledge of that, is that we begin to **model that same life.** It is when we push a little farther and go the extra mile for each other and sacrifice for each other that is **when we will receive a full satisfaction of the Gospel.** Experiencing the life changing revelation of Christ in others, when we sacrifice and Model Christ, will always make you take the next step; it will always satisfy you more than food, because you are actually accomplishing the will of God, Glorifying His Son...

What can you sacrifice today? Is your life filled up with what you deem are worthy causes and do they keep you from sacrificing for those around you?

Whether you know Christ fully today or not my challenge for us all is don't stop when you are a little tired, if you get that call, if you are needed to minister to someone, **remember that our goals of rest our subordinate to His goals of Kingdom expansion.** And remember it is in the practice of Sacrificing that you may become even more satisfied of who Jesus is in your life.

### PRAYER



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**COMMUNION**

**BENEDICTION**

Go in the name of the **Father** that first sacrificed His Son for our need of redemption.

Go in the name of the **Son** that gave the perfect sacrifice to satisfy all our needs.

Go in the name and power of the **Holy Spirit** that helps us to sacrifice for others even when we are tired and whom brings us a deeper satisfaction when we reflect our Lord.