

1. I shared a message last week entitled **Extraordinary Christianity**.
2. I am asking you to grab ahold of the concept and the principle that God wants to do extraordinary things in and through your life.
3. In fact, the God we serve is extraordinary. He is a healer. He is a savior. He is a miracle worker. He is the son of God. He is the lamb of God, the first and the last, the bright and morning star. He is God.
4. And so therefore as we interact with him and live for him, it is essential that we understand that his supernatural, extraordinary nature is going to rub off on us.
5. Mainly because, as God he lives in us. He works in us. His Spirit dwells in us.
6. We are highlighting this idea of Extraordinary Christianity by looking at the lives of some extremely extraordinary event from the bible.
7. Last week we studied the life of Enoch. At first, Enoch didn't walk with the Lord. He was a sinner. But at the age of 65 he became the father of Methuselah, and after he became the father of Methuselah, he began to walk with the Lord faithfully.
8. He began to follow the Lord faithfully. He surrendered his life and he let God be in control. He walked with God faithfully over a period of 300 years, and the result of his walking with the Lord was that God did something amazing.
9. I want to point that out again. Enoch didn't do something extraordinary; God did something extraordinary. Enoch didn't die. God just took him to heaven.
10. No death, no visitation, no funeral, Enoch was just gone. Enoch is one of only two men in the Old Testament who didn't experience death. The other was Elijah.
11. So Enoch lived and experienced a very extraordinary life and encounter with the Lord.
12. Don't despise your beginning. Don't despise how you started. Don't believe the lie that because you were a terrible sinner or a terrible person that you are no good.

13. The greatest thing that can happen in your life is that you allow Jesus Christ to save you, cleanse you, and give you a new life. That in and of itself is extraordinary.
14. Then walk with him faithfully, in other words, listen for his voice and obey what he says, and you have laid the groundwork for extraordinary Christianity in your life.
15. Remember, **extraordinary Christianity is based on what God does not on what you do.**
16. This morning I want to look at another very obscure character in the New Testament.
17. Like Enoch we don't know all that much about this young man. What we do know is this. He had five loaves of bread and two small fish, and he gave them to Jesus. And out of that a multitude of nearly 15,000 people were fed with an abundance left over.
18. We don't know his name. We don't know where he was from. We don't know who his parents were, whether he was rich or poor, we just don't know a lot about him. But one thing we do know is that he was a central figure in a very extraordinary event.

TEXT: **John 6:5-13** When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, **"Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"** 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" 8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" 10 Jesus said, **"Have the people sit down."** There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. 12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, **"Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."** 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

TITLE: **The extraordinary story of a little Boy's lunch.**

INTRO:

1. I love this true story of Jesus feeding the five thousand for so many reasons.

2. First of all, it is a miracle, and it is something that is just extraordinary.
3. Secondly, I like the story because Jesus challenges the thinking of his disciples.
4. It gets near the end of the day and Jesus recognizes that the crowd is probably hungry, so he looks over at poor unsuspecting Philip and says, where are we going to buy bread for all these people.
5. Philip was stunned. What do you mean where will we get enough bread to feed these people? It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread to feed them all. Of course you know Jesus we don't have that much money.
6. Then along comes Peter. Always one to be listening in on other people's conversations. Of course he couldn't keep quiet. Well Jesus I don't know what we are going to do, but there is a young boy here and he has five small barley loaves and two small fish.
7. This would have been a statement of faith on Peter's part if he had stopped speaking right there, but he didn't. he concluded his thought by questioning the very provision he had pointed out, but how far will that go among so many.
8. In other words, I don't know what good it will do but here is what we have.
9. And all the while this young man is just standing there taking it all in. he was too young to speak up in front of all these grown men, but he had something of value that could help with the outcome of this circumstance, so he just stood there.
10. This young man had lunch. Five small barley loaves (about the size of a small biscuit) and two small fish.
11. I find several things interesting about this fact. Five thousand men, and not one of them thought to bring any food.
12. Probably nearly five thousand women, and not one of them thought to bring any food. The only one who thought to bring food was this young boy.
13. Actually I am going to revise that. I have raised young boys and they don't tend to think ahead all that much, so I choose to believe that this young man had a lunch that day because his mother had foresight

and didn't want her son to starve to death out in the wilderness. So she packed him a lunch.

14. How many by a show of hands think it was probably the mothers doing that he had a lunch?
15. Either way, it probably doesn't take long for this little guy to understand he has something very valuable. He has something nobody else has. Food. But what he does with it next is very uncharacteristic. He lets Jesus have his only source of nourishment, and the result was that Jesus did something extremely extraordinary.
16. But Jesus used a boy.
17. Now again, let me remind you. The boy giving his food away was not what was extraordinary. The extraordinary part is found in what Jesus did. All the glory belongs to the Lord. But God chose to work through this young man, who had the best mother in the world to do something great, and that is the thing I think we need to realize.
18. God works in and through ordinary people, ordinary Christians, to do the extraordinary. So no matter what the circumstances extraordinary Christianity is more than likely in your future.
19. So let me share some principles that I see come to the surface because of this young man's sacrifice.

Extraordinary is not determined by what you have, it is determined by what you give.

1. I want to make a point here. This great miracle did not occur because of what the young man had. Because what this young man had was puny in comparison to the need that stood before them.
2. Even Peter admitted. What are these five loaves and two fish among so many. The answer. They were nothing. In was a young boy's lunch. It was designed and made to feed one person, not fifteen thousand.
3. So the miracle here did not occur because of what the boy had. The miracle occurred because of what the boy gave.
4. I submit to you that extraordinary Christianity is not a result of what you have, extraordinary Christianity is a result of what you give.

5. Far too often we look at what we have, and we limit God. We look at what we have in comparison with what we need. We look at what we have in comparison to the need of the world around us. We look at what we have, and we determine in our heart, that isn't enough to do any good, so we cast it aside and nothing extraordinary ever happens.
6. Because our vision is limited to what we have. But what we have is not the key. It is what we give that is the key.
7. What did this young man give? He gave everything he had. It wasn't much. It wasn't sufficient to meet the need. It wasn't significant or over the top, but it was everything he had. He willingly gave all that he had.
8. This principle of giving all you have is seen elsewhere in the New Testament. **Mark 12:41-44** Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. **42** But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. **43** Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. **44** They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on."
9. You see greatness doesn't come about because of what we have, greatness comes about because of what we give.
10. Several rich people came by the offering box, and they put in large sums of money. They gave out of their wealth.
11. But this poor widow woman gave two small coins that were worth only a few cents. But Jesus said about her, she has put more into the treasury than all the others.
12. You see we have to learn to place value the way God places value. Value is given to what we give not to what we have.
13. After all the scripture doesn't say have and it will be given to you a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured in your lap.
14. No, the bible says give and it will be given you. The extraordinary comes about as a result of what we give.
15. Two things I would like to point out about giving. First of all, God wants our best. God doesn't want our leftovers. God wants our best.

16. And like this widow woman. Like this little boy. No matter what our state in life, we always have a best to give.
17. You see you and I can't give God our leftovers and then expect extraordinary Christianity. We can't expect God's best in return for what we have left over. God wants our best.
18. God has always wanted our best. It's just that down through the ages God's people have reasoned that they can get by without offering the Lord their best... They have rationalized, I can give God less than my best and God will never know. Trust me. God knows.
19. You may fool me, you may fool your spouse, you may fool your co-worker or your brother in Christ, but God knows if you are giving your best.
20. So first of all God want's your best. Secondly, everyone has something to give. Every Christian has something of value to give.
21. If you are the poorest person on the planet, I believe you still have something to give.
22. If you were homeless, penniless, had no food or clothing or shelter you still have something to give. You can give time. You can give kindness. You can give lots of things.
23. Quit shortchanging the power of God by trying to make him believe you don't have anything to give. And stop cutting off the fulfillment of the extraordinary in your life simply because you are hung up on the quantity of what you have to give rather than the quality.
24. The extraordinary comes as a result of the quality of what you give (your best), not the quantity of what you have.
25. Secondly...

Anything placed in the Master's hands becomes extraordinary.

1. Here's why I can boldly and unashamedly stand before you and tell you that God wants your very best. Because when you give it to God, he transforms what little you have into something extraordinary.
2. **John 6:11** Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

3. It says in verse eleven that Jesus took the loaves. That doesn't mean he wrestled with the boy to get him to give up his lunch. No way. That boy willingly gave it.
4. That boy placed his lunch in the master's hands. And when he placed it in the master's hands, the extraordinary began to happen.
5. It says that Jesus began to hand out food, but before he did other books of the bible say that he blessed the food. He blessed it. He made it holy. He made it miraculous. He made it extraordinary.
6. He took what was common and made it into something amazing. More than enough.
7. Here's another reason why I can tell you that God wants your very best. Because your very best in your hands is never enough. But your very best in God's hands is always enough.
8. As long as we hang on to it, God can't bless it. As long as we hoard it or hide it from God then he can't bless it. But when we give it to him in obedience, when we place it in his hands it is transformed into something extraordinary.
9. Another thing crossed my mind as I envisioned Jesus handing out the food. Do you think that boy who gave his five loaves and two fishes got to eat that day?
10. I believe he did. In fact, I believe he had more than enough to eat. The bible says that they ate as much as they wanted.
11. I wonder if his belly would have been as full if he had kept his lunch for himself? Maybe not. Either way it didn't matter. Because he placed what he had in the master's hands, he was able to enjoy the benefits of the extraordinary.
12. People who want the benefits without obedience are sinners and cheats and liars. Those are some tough words to say. They were tough to write but I believe it is true. If you and I want to enjoy the benefits of God, but we don't want to be obedient to God, we are trying to cheat, not just the system, but we are cheating and robbing from the Lord himself.
13. It's as if we are saying to God. I want things my own way, I don't care what you want.

14. Whatever you give to Jesus becomes extraordinary.
15. The third thing I see about this young man is this.

He didn't try and tell Jesus what to do with what he gave.

1. Let me read this miracle from another gospel. **Matthew 14:19** And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.
2. I thought it interesting that Jesus broke the loaves. That's interesting to me because they were very small. We are not talking about loaves of bread that are so big you could make several sandwiches with it. These loaves were about the size of small biscuits.
3. By breaking them apart, the people wouldn't even have enough bread to make a good fish sandwich. It was probably odd.
4. But again, neither this young man, nor anyone else for that matter said anything about how Jesus handled the food.
5. He broke the bread, but he didn't break the fish. It was unorthodox, but yet Jesus did it his way.
6. Yes, the extraordinary is determined by what we give. Yes, it is true that anything placed in the hands of the master becomes extraordinary, but there is also a third part.
7. Once you give it to him, don't try telling him how to handle it. Don't tell him what to do with it.
8. It is not our place to tell the master how to accomplish his will. It is not our place to act smarter than him by directing his actions.
9. By faith, let God do what he wants so that he can achieve the outcome he wants.
10. To put it simply, the extraordinary only occurs when it's what God wants and when it brings him glory.
11. Stop telling God what to do and instead trust him.

Conclusion:

1. This young man was a part of an extraordinary event. He was right in the middle of it.
2. He held in his hands the food that was multiplied and used to feed thousands of people.

3. This young man got a front row seat to see the miraculous take place. Why? Was it because he was someone great? Was it because he had some special ability?
4. It was because he was near Jesus and willing to give the Lord his very best.
5. I believe God wants to do the extraordinary in your life. I believe the Lord wants you to experience extraordinary Christianity. Not for your sake but for his sake.
6. Are you willing to surrender to the Lord that His will might be done?
7. I'm reminded of the story of Moses when God was calling him to go back to Egypt.
8. Moses was making every excuse in the book. I stutter. I don't speak well. I'm bashful.
9. And God said what's that in your hand. A staff. Throw it down. It becomes a snake. Pick it back up again, it becomes a staff again.
10. It's not about you it's about him.
11. Salvation call.
12. Have people come around the front to stand.
13. Quit downplaying what you have. Quit making excuses.
14. Commit to give God your very best.
15. Trust him to do what will bring him glory.