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DEEP SPIRITUAL EFFORT

Mark 6:30-44 (New International Version)

INTRODUCTION:

A. Faithful effort is the key because:

- *Without faith it is impossible to please God...* — Hebrews 11:6
- *According to your faith will it be done to you.* — Matthew 9:29

I. ADMIT WE DON'T HAVE WHAT WE NEED

A. God will do great things if we can be honest before God that we have a need; even one that seems unsolvable.

When Jesus...saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them...so He began teaching them. By this time it was late in the day, so His disciples came and said, "This is a remote place. Send the people away so they can go and buy something to eat." But Jesus answered, "You give them something to eat!" They said, "That would take eight months of a man's wages!"

— Mark 6:34-37a

B. When we have a need that we "don't have enough" to address a need we...

II. GOD ALWAYS USES WHAT WE HAVE

A. God meets our needs when we offer Him what we do have.

"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked, "Go and see."

When they found out, they said, "Five small loaves of bread and two fish." — Mark 6:38

Jesus asked this only to test them, for He already had in mind what He was going to do.

— John 6:6

B. *He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

— Matthew 17:20

III. PUT IT ALL IN JESUS' HANDS

A. God meets our needs when we are "all in" with what we do have.

Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish...He blessed the food, broke the loaves and He kept giving them to the disciples to set before the people...

— Mark 6:41

IV. EXPECT GOD TO ACT

A. In faith we give God what we have and we expect Him to provide the rest.

Everyone ate and had enough. Afterwards they collected 12 baskets full of...leftovers!

— Mark 6:42-43 (Phillips Translation)

B. *All things are possible with God.*

— Mark 10:27

CONCLUSION: