

ActNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Connect Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Connect Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

TPMC Values Generosity: A Little Boy's Lunch

John 6:5-13

Kenneth Yeo

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- **Miracles still happen because they are in accordance with God's will.** The sermon emphasizes that there is no set formula to make miracles happen, but when our heart's posture is that of a heart fully surrendered to God – that is, when we are NOT expecting a miracle from God NOR are we expecting God to act in a certain way & instead, we *are completely rested* in whatever outcome God allows – we might experience & witness a miracle.

In John 6:5-13, the little boy willingly surrendered his meal to Jesus. This small, simple offering in terms of the amount of food, was given generously and sacrificially from a “surrendered posture”, and Jesus received it and fed the multitudes. This demonstrates how “one boy’s surrender brought God’s wonder”.

- **True generosity flows from a posture of surrender.** When we realise deeply that God owns everything and we are simply stewards of what He has entrusted to us, we will see giving in a different light and begin to give generously. Because when we give, we are acknowledging and returning our talents and resources to God who is the rightful owner.
- **A posture of surrender brings about God's wonder.** The more we surrender to God, the more we will be in alignment with God's plan and participate in His work/miracles. God is not looking at how much we give. He is looking at our hearts when we give. When our giving is an expression of our love for God and for other people *regardless* the amount and *regardless* how God would use what we offer to Him, BELIEVE that God will receive our gift(s) & bless His people. Let us let go and let God decide if He wants to bless His people through a miracle, or not – because He alone has the prerogative. Perhaps you and I would even grasp **yet another miracle** and be *in awe & wonder* and *bow before God* in humility, brokenness & gratitude – that the Almighty God would *involve us in the first place* to be part of His plan to bless others around us!
- **Tips on how to start giving or serving.** Start small with baby steps. With regards to our offering or tithing, decide on the percentage each of us want to give to God and give it to God the first thing every month. With regards to serving, attend the S.H.A.P.E. course in October to discover how God created us to serve Him & others if we have yet discovered our S.H.A.P.E. Also, we can visit the church website or speak with any church staff to find out where you can serve in.
- **Conclusion** – The greatest miracle is JESUS, God's generous gift of His Son for all humanity as God gave His ALL, and JESUS gave His ALL in full surrender to God the Father's Will. May we encounter God in the journey of our giving, generosity and full surrender to God and find ourselves participating in something bigger than ourselves, our wishes and needs.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RELATE

1. Imagine yourself as the little boy in the sermon text. You only have a small lunch pack and more than 5,000 people around you are hungry. Your stomach is probably growling as well. A disciple then approaches you and asks if you are willing to offer your lunch. What would be going through your mind at that point in time? Would you share your food?

REFLECT

2. The sermon taught us that the posture of surrender is essential if we want to be aligned with God's will and participate in His work. From the verses provided, discuss what biblical surrender looks like and why this is *the posture* of a Christian.

[Verses to help us go deeper: John 6:5-13; Proverbs 3:5-6; Romans 12:1]

RESPOND

3. Would you like to encounter God and be part of something greater and divine? Spend some time thinking about what God is challenging you to give to Him today. Over the next week, work towards surrendering this aspect of your life to Him by prioritising God's will over your own agenda.

[Verse to help us go deeper: Luke 22:42]

PRAYER POINTERS

- Thank God for giving you an opportunity to partake in His work and miracles through a posture of surrender.
- Ask God to show you what is that one thing that He would like you to surrender to Him. Pray for strength to begin this journey of surrender and to actively choose His will over your own agenda. Pray for faith to trust fully in God's provision as you seek to surrender to Him.

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

““Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”” [Luke 22:42]