



Entrust - Part 2 Sermon Discussion Notes

Opening Idea

Sometimes it just seems like we don't have enough of what we need. We don't seem to have enough time, enough money, enough friends or enough recognition at work. When we don't seem to have enough of what we think we should have we often forget what we do have.

Key Scriptures

Matthew 14:15-21 (see also Mark 6:32-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:5-13)

15 As evening approached, 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 themselves some food." 16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." 17 "We have here *only* five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. 18 "Bring them here to me," he said. 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. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. NIV

Discussion Questions

1. In the message "deficit thinking" was discussed. Deficit thinking was described as being tuned into what you don't have instead of what you do have. Focusing on what we don't have often blinds us to what we do have. Why do human beings tend to be focused on what they don't have instead of what they do have?
2. In most of our lives there are negative and positive things happening simultaneously. Discuss the quote by Rick Warren listed on the back regarding seeing life not as valleys and mountaintops but a view of simultaneously having good and bad things happening.

"I used to think that life was hills and valleys - you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore. Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it is kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life. No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for. You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems. If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, which is my problem, my issues, my pain. But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others." Rick Warren in an interview conducted by Paul Bradshaw during a time when Rick's wife Kay had cancer.

3. In the story of the feeding of the 5000 the disciples saw what they didn't have, enough food, while not celebrating what they did have, the loaves and the fishes. In the story how did Jesus place a positive focus on what they did have and what was the net result?
4. When it says that Jesus blessed the loaves and fishes the Greek word used means to speak well of. Why does the Lord encourage us to be positive about what we have instead of being negative about what we don't have?
5. The story of the feeding of the 5000 illustrates this formula. Discuss how you have seen this formula work in your life.

Little Resources + God = Enough

Great Resources - God = Not Enough

Concluding Thought

When we don't think we have enough of what we need, we should always seek to locate what we do have and not overlook it. God can take what we do have and make it more than we need.