

Let God Do Big Things

John 6:1-14

Sometimes we feel inadequate. So we hide our gift, thinking, “What possible difference can my small gift make?”

I wonder if the little boy with the small lunch felt that way, when Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, took the lunch and announced, “There is a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish.” Andrew must have felt the lunch was inadequate. He presented it to Jesus saying, “But what good is this with all these people?” (John 6:8-9) Then Jesus did big things with that little gift! He took it and blessed it and fed 5,000 people!

God has a way of taking the little gifts we bring and multiplying them to do big things. Often the smallest gift or the smallest act of kindness has major consequences.

I love the story from an issue of the Russell Christian Church newsletter. It was about a taxi cab driver that was called out at 2:30 a.m. to pick up a lady at an apartment building. He found the elderly lady waiting at the door to be taken to the hospice center. Her doctor had told her she had only a short time to live. All of her family was dead. She was checking herself in so she could get the care she needed in her final days.

The elderly lady asked the driver if he’d do her a favor. She wanted to drive by a few places on her way to the hospice center. For two hours he drove as she directed him. As he drove she relived her younger days. She showed him the warehouse where she had danced as a young girl when it was a ballroom. She pointed out the neighborhood where she had lived as a newly wed. For two hours she relived her lifetime.

Finally, as the sun began to rise she asked him to take her to the hospice center. Two nursing assistants came out, helped her into a wheelchair, and took her small suitcase. On an impulse the driver gave her a hug and she said to him, “You gave an old woman a little moment of joy. Thank you.” He squeezed her hand and watched them roll her through the doors and out of sight. As he drove off he suddenly thought, “I don’t think I’ve ever done anything more important in my life.”

Mark McKinney, the Senior Minister at Russell, ends his article saying, “God wants us to help others, to enable them to be touched by our compassion and love. He wants to use us to lift up and encourage others along the way. Are you open to his leading? Are you willing to slow down and put aside your busy agenda for a time to minister to someone else who needs a helping hand or encouragement? I hope so.”

May 31 is a fifth Sunday and we will receive the Fifth Sunday Offering for Christian Care Communities. Your gift is one way you have of helping others. When your gift is joined with gifts from others, **God can do big things!** Give generously!

