

May 22, 2011

Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.

Monday

Mark 6:41 He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food and broke the loaves and He **kept giving them to the disciples to set before them...**

How do you build personal, deep, abiding faith? You embrace the opportunity to be engaged with God in the process of Kingdom work. There is no better way to learn trust in God's power, grace, and provision. Look at this scene! Five loaves, two fish, yet the disciples knowing exactly the original count returned again and again to receive more food to carry to the crowd. Go figure! If you were there would your faith have grown? Yes! And as you involve yourself in mission and ministry seeing first hand God's work, your faith will grow and grow and grow!

Tuesday

Mark 6:30 The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught.

Tell somebody! It really is as simple as that. When you were saved, the scriptures instructed you to "confess with your mouth." Remember? There is something about the telling of your testimony that solidifies the memory, the truth, the experience in your soul. So go tell somebody what Jesus has done **for** you, what Jesus has done **in** you, and even what Jesus has done **through** you recently. As you relate the truth of God's actions the truth becomes **your** truth building your faith.

Wednesday

Mark 6:52 they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

Truly, God may be at work all around you, He may even involve you in that work, and yet you gain little or no strength of faith in the process. Why? Because you are not looking at what God is doing. Maybe you are too focused upon the present situation. Maybe you are simply **too focused upon you**. For whatever reason your heart is not soft and receptive to the things of God's grace and wonder. Open your eyes! Look and see! Become involved in the wonder of God today. Watch for the 'coincidences' of grace. Allow yourself to see, really see, God at work in your midst. It will change your life and your perspective, growing your faith and your joy.

Thursday

Ex. 10:2 that you may tell in the hearing of your son, and of your grandson, how I made a mockery of the Egyptians and how I performed My signs among them, that you may know that I am the LORD."

Remember, reflect, and retell the stories of God's work in your life! God instructed the Israelites to retell His story/their story over and over, to retell the mighty works of God, which He had accomplished for them. This remembering of God's great work in their lives, of His accomplishments in the past, would give them strength of faith for the present trials and travels. It is true with you as well. Recount the things God has already done in your life. Even recount the things He has done as recorded in Scripture. Meditate upon them. Find assurance in them. Grow in faith.

Friday

Mark 6:8-9 He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff — no bread, no bag, no money in their belt — but to wear sandals; and He added, "Do not put on two tunics."

Sometimes the Lord instructs you to take nothing, so that you may find that He is your every supply. Learning that He can and will meet your needs is the most wonderful faith building exercises. (O.K. so it doesn't always feel so great in the moment.) How will you know that He will feed you, if you never knew hunger -- physical, social, or spiritual? How will you know that He will provide, if you never found yourself lacking in provision -- physical, social, or spiritual? No bread, no bag, one tunic, yet not cold or hungry, and more than needed. Such builds faith. builds faith.