

E-Series

Your Lunch Box (Part III)



"Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), 2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Feast was near. 5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" 6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, 9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. 12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. 14 After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." –John 6:1-14

One of my pastor friends was telling me about a little boy in his congregation. His name is Adam, and several years ago Adam opened up his lunch box and gave what he had to Jesus.

He was nine years old at the time, and Adam went with his parents to serve at a homeless shelter in the upstate. (What a great way to teach your child about following Jesus! "In that you've done it to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you've done it to me.") One day Adam was working with his dad when the shelter ran out of towels. They were the ones who had to tell the homeless men that they were out of towels. After delivering that news, Adam watched as one of the homeless took a newspaper into the shower room with him. Knowing that he was going to dry off with that newspaper, Adam was deeply troubled. God stirred in his little heart. A vision was born.

Adam started talking to people in his church and community about having a towel drive. He shared his idea with anybody who would listen. People got on board. Some responded because a nine year old asked them to, not really out of concern for the poor. Many others were inspired by Adam's passion. But, some discounted his efforts. How much could a nine year old really do, anyway?

Adam was undeterred. Like the little boy from John 6, he opened up his lunch box and gave what he had to Jesus. By some accounts it wasn't much. But, once he gave it to Jesus, once Jesus got *his* hands on it...

Let's just say that the homeless shelter didn't have to worry about towels for a LONG time.

What's in your lunch box? Have you given it to Jesus?

Looking in My Lunch Box,
Pastor Michael