

“Encountering Trials with Our Sovereign God.”

John 6:1-14, Matt 14:21

Four responses to trials and needs that arise...

I. We ask God to remove the _____ . Mk. 6:35-36, Luke 9:11

- A. Our first response to hardship can often be a request for _____. 2 Cor. 12:8
- B. _____ in God’s sovereignty. Philippians 1, James 1:1-4, I Peter 1:6-7
 - 1. Taking the time to ask God what He wants to teach you in the trial.
 - 2. Learning to ask “What” and “How” questions will be evidence of growth.
- C. _____ daily direction from constant fellowship with God. James 1:5, I Peter 5:7

II. _____ Problem solving.

- A. We _____ upon ourselves to solve the problem. Matt. 6
 - 1. The natural result will be worry because circumstances can be overwhelming.
 - Philip’s response was that it would take 8 months wages to be able to offer the crowd
- B. The Lord is faithful to _____ of us our need for total dependence.
 - 1. The overwhelming often drives us to our knees. I Cor. 1:8-10, Ps. 38, 2 Cor. 12:8-10
- C. Our faith will be hindered when we think merely in the _____ of the natural.
 - 1. Our faith can easily falter when our eyes are set upon the circumstances.
 - 2. What a privilege to serve a personal and all-powerful God. Phil. 4:6-7

III. Willing _____

- A. Offering our limited _____ to the Lord. I Thess. 5:24
 - 1. God doesn’t *need* any help - but He often deliberately restrains His work until He has our participation. – Guzik ...Exodus 3-4
- B. God has done _____ things through ordinary vessels.
 - 1. What a privilege to be asked to join God in His marvelous, redeeming work!
- C. Our _____ as faithful stewards.
 - 1. Faith and faithfulness are both important!

IV. Celebrating God’s _____.

- A. The disciples _____ in faith.
- B. Their active faith was _____.
 - 1. Promises like the one found in Romans 12:1-2 will require a faith that takes action.
 - 2. He not only satisfied the need, but provided more than they could eat. Eph. 3:20
- C. Rejoicing and _____ given to Jesus.

* **Questions** for smalls groups...

- 1. What is your initial response in trials?
- 2. How have you seen God’s sovereignty in trials?
- 3. What is the root of your worry and anxiety in trials?
- 4. How have you experienced God’s faithfulness in spite of your inadequacies?

5. How have you personally experienced the reality that God provides?