Intro: 13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” 16 But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” 17 They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” 18 And he said, “Bring them here to me.” 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

I. Essential One: We need to have compassion on people – 13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

a. The Master saw they needed to be ministered to

• His cousin had just been killed, He had just returned from an all-night prayer meeting with God, and then He turned ministering to the people. Minsters are no different from others; we lose people, we have hard times, heartaches, and callused hands just like every other person in life. But what we see in the call of Christ is more important than our suffering. And that call is so strong, so powerful, and so controlling in our lives, we put all other things last and the call first. It is a blessing to us and a cure to others.

° 24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24

b. The Master had compassion on the people

• Minsters where is our compassion for the people. You can have compassion and still have your convictions. We have compromised our conviction for compassion. This leaves a church that has hurt the people for lack of leadership and direction for popularity and fame. A church with no conviction with compassion is a church the has no direction because they have no map.

° 12 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put-on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:12-17

II. Essential Two: We accept the responsibility of the Master’s call – 16 But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” 17 They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.”

a. Note that the Master gave them a mission – “you give them something to eat”

• Every calling has a mission. When a minister is called into the ministry, they are called to the mission field of making disciples. Yes, in some ways we all are called to the ministry in some way, but ministers are called into the very field of preaching, teaching, and evangelizing the church. This is the very reason why Jesus said for his disciples to go and make more disciples. You are saved by Christ, but we are called to make disciples.

° 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19, 20

b. The disciples saw the inadequate impossibilities – “We have only five loaves here and two fish.”

• Have you ever felt like that you’re not qualified with what you must do with what Christ has called you to do? I can’t teach that class, I can’t preach that message, I can’t sing that special for the church, and my favorite, I can’t do anything for God, I’m not qualified because of my past. God never calls qualified people; he calls unqualified people He can use.

° 4 Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

III. Essential three: We rely upon Christ in using our gifts – 18 And he said, “Bring them here to me.” 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

a. Ministers are to bring their abilities to Christ – “bring them here to me”

• It is not that I can’t do anything for God, but instead it is God saying, you bring to me what you have, and I will do the rest. It does not matter how meaningless you may think it is (like fish and bread) God can take it and blessed thousands, and the only thing you did was give your capabilities to God for His service.

° 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:11-13

b. Jesus gives an example on how to use our abilities:

1. Use your leadership abilities – “then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass”

• He instructed the crowd to sit down, or He led his sheep to the field of grass to eat what Christ was about to teach them. As ministers we are called to lead and instruct our sheep into the words of God. We are not to “bible thump” them but lead the into the truth with compassion.

° 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. Psalms 23:1, 2

2. Never use your abilities without praying – “he looked up to heaven and said a blessing”

• Jesus took what the disciples brought to Him and He prayed over what they gave him. We should take a lesson from this and every time we use the gifts God has given to us, we should ask God in prayer to help keep our gift sharp and useful. Just a side note this is a scripture we Christian’s use, to ask God to bless our meals every time we eat.

° 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13

3. Christ will take your abilities and bless others – “Then He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds”

• The disciple’s part in blessing others was threefold:

° They shared what they have – “the disciples gave them to the crowds”

° They were to prepare for the future – “And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces leftover”

° They were able to observe the power of Christ – “21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children”