



Week 6 – The Message of Provision

Lessons on provision as they were learned by Jesus' first followers

1. Your Father will provide for your needs from His unlimited resources in heaven.

Matt 6:11 Lords Prayer: Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts,

Matt. 6:19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matt. 6:25 “Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?.... 32 **For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.** 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

LIE – God doesn't know me or care about the details of my life

TRUTH – He's your heavenly Father. He not only knows – He will provide.

2005 Offering: Target £200,000. Actual £ ,000

Email: It was some weeks ago now - before I had heard about the gift day I had a dream where I saw some people holding a large cheque, which I'm pretty sure was for £146,000. I also remember that the thing that struck me was that it was from 1 offering. I felt it significant, or at least encouraging as a little later you guys shared that we had £60,000 in the bank and were hoping to increase it to £200,000. When I think about how possible it is for us to raise £146,000 in one offering I can't get my head round it - but I do believe that God can make it happen. Roll on Sunday.

2. Your Father will supply your needs when you step out in faith to follow Him

Matt 10:7 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. 9 Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, 10 no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the labourer deserves his food.

When God sends you on a mission he provides for as we step out in faith and obedience to what he's told you to do.

2006/2007 Offering: Target: £250,000 Actual £ ,000

3. When you give your resources in faith, your Father adds his

Matt. 14:16 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."

Matt. 15:32 Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way." 33 And the disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?" 34 And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish."

What we have is secondary to what he can do with what we have.

2008 Offering: Target £1 million by end of 2012

Actual: £ _____,000 (£ _____,000 given, £ _____,000 pledged still to be given)

Total given for this building so far £ _____,000 or £ _____, including pledges to end of 2012

4. When you don't learn the lessons Jesus gets mad! Learn the principle of remembering!!

Matt. 16:5 When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. 6 Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 7 And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread." 8 But **Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread?"** 9 Do you not yet perceive? Do you not **remember** the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? 10 Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? 11 How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread?

Principle: When we need to grow in faith for the next challenge, start by remembering what God has already done

We don't give to earn God's favour. We have His favour! If you don't want to give, don't give. No-one will know!

If your heart has been moved to give, then as you prepare over the next few weeks, first REMEMBER!

All that He has done AND...

He promises to provide for your practical needs.

As you step out in obedience on mission He promises again to provide

As you give what little you have, He adds from His unlimited supply

Just remember!