

S.N. Jan 21, 79 A.M. -  
(Anthony) -

## "GOT PROBLEMS"

Mark 6:36-44

Someone had a poster that illustrated the matter of problems. He had a lot of trouble. He had one hand across his brow - the other hand across his chest. He looked like he was completely out of it. Here is what it says -- "you think you've got problem, I've got so many problems that if something happened today - I wouldn't have time to worry about it for the next three weeks."

*Retired man sick w/ cancer -*

*Problem Early Wakened - I got Name man good at Problem - Trip Life - Report -*

*Post - weight - Though woman same as fat woman - "woman with soul area"*

Did you ever feel like that? Life is a process of problem solving.

That is a part that really man - with the God-given ability and capacity can solve problems. As we grow, as we develop.

All of your learning processes and all of your education comes to you from the basic process of problem solving. All the things you learn in science comes to you through problems that are solved in math. All of your spiritual growth really comes to you as you face the struggle through life, and you get up on the side of that mountain and you feel that you have grown.

The process of facing up to problems is something that sooner or later comes to us, and we find that we can handle some. When we come to a problem that we simply cannot solve, one that is beyond our capacity, one that is beyond our ability. The circumstances have created this problem and it is beyond our control.

For example, an earthquake comes and destroys the property and thousands of people - and all the nations of the world try to help with that problem. They build stronger buildings. And put them on certain foundations. But they have not really solved the problem - they have only helped. And as they deal with that, a tornado comes or a hurricane. And here is another disaster that takes the city. And then comes a great drought or a famine. And hunger sets in. This entire life is made up of problems.

Some of these are insurmountable problems. Physical problems, and handicaps. Disasters.

But we need to know that God wants to help us solve these daily conflicts. For the ministry of Christ was spent - he set the pattern for us - as in the story that we want to talk about today. The feeding of the 5,000 - in Mark 6 - we find the story that is recorded in all the Gospels - in Luke 9, John 6, Matthew 14.

Jesus performed miracles. But he gives us a principle of truth. He did not go out into the world doing miracles day after day - to put on a circus or a show. They were to meet the needs and to solve the problems of the people.

We need to discover that this miracle is to teach us something. And God wants us to help use this to solve our own daily problems. Get the



scene. A multitude have been following Jesus across the country. All day and they were near a desert area away from the city. Away from all of the resources of the city. Evening was come. And here was a crowd of 5,000. Some one has suggested that you could well double that number and say plus 10,000 were there. And they were hungry and there was no food. Now that indeed was a problem.

They were hungry. Let us see how Jesus went about and see exactly what he recommended. And how to challenge and take hold of the situation.

### I. FACE THE PROBLEM

V. 36 - The Disciples saw the multitude and said, "send them away." Wash your hands of this crowd. We did not ask them to come or bring them here. They are responsible for their own mission. Send them away Lord.

Now this is often the answer that we give, isn't it. We say that this problem is none of our business. And we dismiss it. Or we say that this member of our family got into this fix - so why don't we let him get out of it.

How many times have you heard somebody say, well, let George do it. That is his problem. (Thank goodness it is not mine)

Even in the church, how many times, has someone said - well, that's the

problem. But that's not my business. And they send them away.

In our personal lives, we think of our problems in another way. We cannot send the problem away. We cannot escape from these things.

Now quite often a mental break-down may take place. This is an escape mechanism. Individuals many times cannot escape this reality. Or cope with it. They cannot handle the problem.

Yet again, there are those people who turn to drugs. They say that they will be able to escape reality if I can get a little bit high on drugs. And I'll get over my problems.

There are those who take alcohol. And this today is a epidemic among teen-agers, college students, and others. They release their tensions, they say, and their problems. But this is becoming another problem as it crumbles the foundation of our society.

The Disciples simply said - "send them away" - let us try to get these problems out of our sight.

Now Jesus is going to point out to you and point out to these Disciples that you need to face up to your problems. Look them over, analyze them, and

and do not run. And do not, as Harry Truman has on his desk in the Memorial Library there, "This is where the buck stops." You just can't pass it on or hide it with somebody else.

## II. FIND THE RESOURCES - V. 38

Now as you face the problem, step number 2 Jesus said, find your resources. Discover where they are.

"What food do we have."

The Disciples said - we have 5 loaves and 2 fishes.

Now what would be your reaction. It was negative. Oh yes, here are some resources. Just enough lunch for a boy. What about these 10,000 people. What is this against so many.

Now this is a human way to react and to respond. You immediately start thinking negatively when we have our problems. We cannot solve them. We do not have the resources. So we cling to our doubts instead of to our faith. We see our difficulties instead of our opportunities. We invite failure instead of thinking about success.



Sometimes we feel that we must fight with our own resources. And we are blind to the resources that God himself in his limitless power - is able to come and able to assist.

The Disciples in the very presence of Jesus, did not have the faith and the insight to depend upon the resources that God had available. We have 5 loaves and 2 fishes. And what is that among so many.

Sometimes you sit down and you think about your resources and you think that they are small. But I want you to see another point here. Jesus did not say - there are no resources. He said, there are resources. Let us find them, and let us search them out. And there is no such thing as having no resources to handle your problems.

Did you know, that you will always have some resources. Too often, you look at something, and instead of looking at what you do have, Jesus is trying to say - look at what you do have. Find these resources.

I read about a businessman who was very successful. He had a high credit rating. But somehow, he lost it all. They took his automobile, his home, and his business. And he was just about penniless. And he was living in a rented apartment. And some friend said to him - I'm so sorry to hear that you have lost all. The man said, I beg your pardon. I understand that you have lost all that you had. Oh he answered, that is wrong. Did you lose your business? yes. Your home? Yes. Your car? Yes. Your financial resources? Yes. But I did not lose all. I still have a wife who loves me and children, who are

devoted and a wonderful family. I have a roof over my head. I have the same abilities, the same capacity, that enabled me to build that business. And I still have my health. And furthermore, I have a (lot more sense now) After this experience, I know (what not to do) now.

Is it any wonder that that man rebuilt and re-established greater than he ever was before. He discovered and found his resources. And instead of looking at what he did not have, and that is what Jesus is trying to get you to do. With the power of God working in you - think what you can do. What resources you do have. Why you have the resources of Christian friends, of prayer, of faith in God. These things you have not lost.

I think the story of Robert Schuller speaks something about this today. He is the pastor of the Garden Grove Community Church. He is a member of the Dutch reform church. His denomination is very small. He had no resources but they asked him if he would go to California where there were millions of people and start a church. So he went with his family and \$500. Not a church member, and no resources at all.

There was one other church of his denomination on the other side of Los Angeles. Schuller went to see the pastor. And he let him know that he had been asked to start a new church. And the fellow just threw up his hands. It is impossible to get a church building of any kind, it is impossible to start a church, and Schuller asked him what do you mean. Nothing is impossible with God. Well, I'll tell you - this is impossible. And this idea triggered in his mind a possibility - he says, you mean that you sit here



in the presence of God, and open your spirit and say - God give me all the possibilities now. Not how it cannot be done. But how it can be done.

And in prayer and meditation he said, Oh God, I know it is your will that we have this Dutch Reform Church and this witness in this community. Help me to think of all the possibilities for a church building. Write them down. The first possibility was to use a school building. Use a funeral home. The third, was to use the Seven Day Adventist Church. The fourth, was the possibility of a Jewish synagogue. He had ten possibilities - and he started down the list. The Presbyterian Church met in the school. The Baptists had the funeral home. And he went on down the line - and when he got to number 9 - that was a drive-in theatre. An out-door church. Here was a possibility - and he went and investigated. And they said, you can have this place each Sunday morning for \$10 a week. So he took his \$500 - and made a down-payment and went to the newspapers and began to advertize. Come as you are in your family car. What a slogan. For three weeks, he advertized. He knocked on doors and he found 35 people who would come and sing in his choir. He advocated that everyone of these drive their own car. Don't come together - and this will mean that we will have at least 35 cars. He climbed on a platform on top of a concession stand, and there he started one of the greatest churches at work in America today. But here was a man who faced a problem - but he also found his resources.

Look at your resources. Jesus looked at what they had - 2 fish and 5 loaves and he consecrated them to God. He thanked God for what he had. He worked on the problem. Do you want to get started in dealing with your problems. Then, lift up your resources and say - God, I thank you, for what you have given me to



work on this problem with.

### III. APPLY YOUR RESOURCES - V. 39-40

He acted by saying, let this crowd be seated. And they were seated by 50's. And Dr. Robertson says, as they were seating on the ground, Mark looked at them and they looked like (garden beds). That is, (flower) beds. The colorful clothes that people had on. On that green grass, at that time of year. They looked like a flower garden here and there as they were on that mountain side. The Disciples began to look. Why, they must have been amazed when he began breaking the bread. When he broke it - it was still as big - he kept breaking and the bread kept multiplying and multiplying. The Disciples began to serve the people and the miracle was wrought. And when they were finished - they gathered up (12 baskets) that were left over.

This is the transforming power of God - as power began to work as they faced their problem. They tabulated their resources. They layed them all before God.

The Disciples did not do it - Jesus did not do it - God did it! It was God working in him.

I do not believe there is a person here that God has given you enough resources to handle your problems in life. If you will just discover the resources.

In the Bible, Jesus said I am adequate - my grace is sufficient for you. The Bible says God is a very present help in trouble. If you have problems, God says that I will be there and I will be present. As you have enough resources - it will be not to run away from the problems. Thank God for them and lift them and consecrate them to him - and go to work on them.

I read the story of a remarkable man. Arthur Kavanaugh He was born, looked at this poor little wretch of a being, and said that little one will die or be a hopeless cripple. Arthur Kavanaugh was born with little stubs for arms and legs. As life unfolded for him - the family loved him, helped him, motivated him. And they identified the resources they had and used them for God.

They employed a servant to carry him around. He was so small. But it was not long that they put him on the floor and he learned to move himself. By springing and hopping on the little stubs. They made mechanical extensions for his arms and his hands. He learned to write, and paint reasonably well.

He was always challenged by new problems. One day he said, I am going to learn to ride horseback. They rigged a chair back on a saddle, and with his mechanical arms, he could guide the horse, and not only did he learn to ride - but he learned to jump and gallop on the horse.

With his kind of determination, to conquer problems, he was admired by fellow citizens and he was appointed sheriff of his county. He served in an honorable way. He ran for election and was elected. <sup>British Parliament</sup> When he died at age 68, they said - this is the most remarkable man we have ever known.



Not one of us here ever faced a mountain of difficulty as that man. But you know, he learned a lesson - through God, ourselves, our resources. God will give us the victory over mountain after mountain. Whatever valley we may find or may befall us.

You start by faith in yourself. Then you add faith in your friends. And that will be another line of defense.

Then you will put faith in Jesus Christ, - and that will make all of the difference in the world. If you only have faith in yourself, then you will get only what you can give yourself. When you have faith in your friends, you can get what your friends have to give. But when you have faith, in Jesus Christ, you will get what God can give you.

So you have got problems! face up to them - do not run away from them. Do not try to escape - identify them, thank God for them, and lift them up in prayer.

That is what God wants to do with your life today - if you will make a commitment to him. A total commitment.

There was a man by the name of Zenchenkov. He was an accounting clerk in a town in Russia. He always listened to his wife's advice. In 1947, his wife advised him to go in hiding, after he woke up from a drinking spree, and found that he had lost 400 valuable ration cards entrusted to him by his boss.

From 1947-1969 - 22 years, the frightened clerk stayed in the small room of his house. He never stepped outside. In 1969 his wife died. He went to the police to turn himself in. He was like so many people - too many of us. When we are faced with some problem - we always try to do our best to avoid that problem. This is what this man did. He hid from his problem - he ran from it - he hoped to get away from it. He was unwilling to face it. He wasted 22 years of his life hiding from the problem.

Now the amazing thing about this story is - that after hiding for 22 years he came out to turn himself in. He was told that the ration cards that he had lost while on the drinking spree were found in the desk drawer. They were found on the day that he went into hiding some 22 years earlier.

Let us now recount this miracle - and discover the way to handle our problems. Why not face them, why not find your resources this morning, and why not apply them as you are encouraged to do through this Scripture.

I heard of an individual once who dedicated her life to the cause of Christ - to serve Christ. She said that she did so after reading or hearing someone preach on this wonderful miracle here. She noted that when the Disciples began to pass out the fish and the loaves, they began to multiply at that moment. And she said within her self, that is the only way to multiply my life. It is to be willing to share it. And so I am going to dedicate my life. And I am going to pass it out like the loaves and the fishes and let God multiply my love.