

## *The Privilege of Serving*

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**Key Scripture: Matthew 14:19** ...” and He took five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, He blessed, and broke, and gave the loaves to His disciples, and the disciples gave them to the multitude.”

We see in today’s scriptures the essence of service to others. In Philippians, we read how Jesus emptied himself, came to earth to serve others, gave his life, and taught that this was the model of servanthood. Servants are to empty themselves to prepare for entering in to the service of others. In this way it becomes clear whose needs are being met- our job is to meet the needs of those whom we serve.

We then read in Matthew that Jesus fed the multitude. The “wow factor” for me in this story is that Jesus involved the disciples. Jesus is the one who broke the bread and blessed it, asking the Father for provision for the people. Notice, however, in the end of verse 19, “ ... and gave the loaves to His disciples, and the disciples gave them to the multitude.” Jesus involved the disciples in the miracle of serving others.

We too have been given the awesome privilege of serving others. God gives us talents and gifts to bless other people, and then he entrusts us to carry out the service in His name. This plan for service is really quite remarkable, and to think we have a part in the Master’s plan for the world- that is a true privilege.

*Prayer: Father, you have given us the privilege of serving others, and you have given Jesus as the model. Forgive us for the times we serve out of wrong motives, or with a bitter spirit. Thank you for the blessings you give us to pass on to others. Amen*