

## Hospitality and Generosity

Matthew 14:13-21 (MSG):

*Jesus slipped away by boat to an out-of-the-way place by himself. But unsuccessfully—someone saw him and the word got around. Soon a lot of people from the nearby villages walked around the lake to where he was. When he saw them coming, he was overcome with pity and healed their sick.*

*Toward evening the disciples approached him. "We're out in the country and it's getting late. Dismiss the people so they can go to the villages and get some supper."*

*But Jesus said, "There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper."*

*"All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish," they said.*

*Jesus said, "Bring them here." Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the congregation. They all ate their fill. They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. About five thousand were fed.*

This is one of the few stories about Jesus that is recorded in all of the Gospels, each giving a little different twist on the event; but we can say that this is a very important thing that happened in Jesus ministry. Jesus tells His disciples, "don't send the people away, you get them something to eat". Have you ever wondered where the disciples were to find something for all these people to eat? Well, quite probably it would have been the same place Jesus found it.

John records that it is a little child who had brought the loaves and fishes and offered them to help feed all these people. It's not much; but imagine if one child had a little, and gave it generously, then, someone else had a little more, and gave it generously as well. What if this act of generosity kept going? What if others gave what they had as well? Pretty soon, there would be enough, and more to spare...

Notice the loaves and fishes are given to Jesus here, Jesus blesses them, Jesus uses them. When we give what we have to Jesus, when we sacrifice what we have so He can use it, what we have is always multiplied

Generosity creates Hospitality, and you cannot have real Hospitality unless you also have Generosity to go with it. The two are tied together and each gives the other its meaning.

This is the relationship we need to understand in order to move forward in following Christ. What we give is multiplied, hospitality happens when we are generous in our giving; and when we give together with others, we find that there is more than what is need – we find abundance exists. Sharing is the Key!

This is not charity, it is Sharing. God blesses us all with talents, and opportunity to share with others. And God wants us to recognize those talents and opportunities and share them with others.

So the question is today, what blessings and talents can you share with others?

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What opportunities do you have to share those blessings?

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## Count your Blessings...

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost  
Count your many blessings; name them one by one  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

(Chorus)

Count your blessings; name them one by one  
Count your blessings; see what God has done.  
Count your blessings; name them one by one,  
Count your many blessings see what God has done.

Words by Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1856-1922  
Music by Edwin O. Excell 1851-1921

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## A New Chorus...

Share your blessing, showing Hospitality,  
Share your blessing, share in Generosity.  
Share your blessings, share with everyone,  
Sharing shows to others what the Lord has done.

## Count Your Blessings

[Verse 1]

**D** **A**  
When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed

**A7** **D**  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost

**A**  
Count your many blessings; name them one by one

**A7** **D** **A7** **D**  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done

[Refrain]

**D** **A**  
Count your blessings; name them one by one

**A7** **D**  
Count your blessings; see what God hath done

**G** **A7**  
Count your blessings; name them one by one

**D** **G** **A** **A7** **D**  
Count your many blessings; see what God hath done