**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 4 – SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**

It Won’t Make A Difference.

**Key Verse(s):** John 6:8-9 “One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?”

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

A large crowd followed Jesus into a desert place, and as evening drew near, the people grew hungry. Jesus turned to Philip and asked where they could buy bread to feed everyone, testing his faith. Philip quickly calculated that even two hundred pennyworth of bread would not be enough for such a multitude. Andrew then mentioned a young boy who had five barley loaves and two small fishes but doubted it could make any difference among so many people. Jesus instructed the disciples to have the people sit down, took the loaves and fishes, gave thanks, and miraculously multiplied them. Over five thousand men, plus their families, ate until they were filled, and twelve baskets of leftovers were collected. What seemed small and insignificant in the hands of man became more than enough in the Lord’s hands. The disciples’ limited perspective caused them to doubt, but the boy’s willingness to give everything allowed God to demonstrate His abundant power.



 **Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* Compassion is what stirs us to take Godly actions.
* The Lord wants us to act with urgency when we see a need.
* All of our resources come from the hand of the Lord.
* There is no task too large when it comes to what God can do.
* Following Christ requires a willingness to live sacrificially.
* They weren’t being motivated by the compassion of the Lord.
* They did not see any urgency in the situation. (Send home)
* They minimized the value of the resources they had.
* They were too focused on the bigness of the task at hand.
* They were likely focused more on their own needs.

**Effects of the Excuse**

**1. It makes us unfaithful/disobedient servants because we don’t do the little things.**

**Luke 16:10** — He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

**2. It leads to an ungodly focus on results instead of making righteous decisions.**

**Daniel 3:17-18a** — If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. 18a But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods,

**3. It feeds what might already be a discouraged or doubtful mentality.**

**Galatian 6:9** — And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**4. It hurts those who would have been positively affected by our actions.**

**James 2:15-16** — If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Mem. Verse:** Jude 1:22 — And of some have compassion, making a difference.

**Reflective Questions:**

* What is the reason I personally use this excuse? Laziness, apathy, or doubt?
* Do I keep in mind Who and what it is that truly makes a difference for people?

**Commitment:**

* I will not get hyper focused on results but instead focus on what God wants from me.
* I will not get overwhelmed by how much work there is to do as the Lord’s servant.

When we minimize impact of action, what are we ultimately questioning?

How much gets accomplished if we decide to do nothing instead?

How could this excuse be connected to the sin of pride?

Why draw attention to something if you do not think it has any real value?

What is the overall purpose when the Lord asks us to do something that might seem to have little impact?