

John

Series: **Free to Win**

June 26, 2016

Message Four:

Nothing is Wasted

John 6:1-15

Intro: Have you ever been empty?

- Hunger – most of us have never really known real hunger – but we do know what it's like to be hungry.
 - o Driving down a road –
 - o Sometimes you've been in that place where you had no cash – no credit – you need sustenance – you don't know where it's coming from –
- Been to the place where your bank account is empty?
- Love tank empty? (5 Love Languages)
- Spiritually empty?

God, I need something – fill me with your love – your presence – your Holy Spirit – your power.

Good News:

Big Idea: Jesus gives when we are empty.

When we have nothing, He has everything.

1. Jesus gives life-changing power.

People are attracted to life-changing power.

John 6:1-2 - After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick.

Miracle after miracle after miracle after miracle. Jesus healed people of all kinds of sicknesses and all kinds of disease. He is the same Jesus today ... yesterday, today & forever ...

If you have a need today, Jesus is able to meet that need -

But what is the biggest miracle of all? Salvation! When people's lives are changed for the better – other people will come to experience the life-giving change as well.

Can we have some personal testimonies here of New Lifers whose lives have been radically changed?

- What was your life before Christ?
- When did you put your faith in Christ?
- What has your life been like since?

Choose 2-3 people – have them write out answers to the above questions – help them prepare for a testimony –

- Jessica Gamblin
- Veronica Pratt

2. Jesus gives faith-giving tests.

We may undergo tests to find out what we really believe.

John 6:3-9 - Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!"

Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"

Philip didn't believe anything could be done.

Andrew didn't believe anything could be done.

Philip thought they had to go somewhere else for help.

Andrew saw they had a little help, but it wasn't nearly enough.

What is it that you are facing in your life right now that you feel is impossible? Do you feel you have to go somewhere else besides Jesus? Do you feel you have a little help, but it's just not enough?

- Family
- Friends
- Church

Just not enough?

Got any rivers you think are uncrossable?

*Got any mountains you can't tunnel through?
God specializes in things thought impossible.
And He can do what no other power can do!*

Do we have any testimonies of people who face an impossible situation – their faith was tested – and God answered?

- **Pastor Sharon? Faith tested with her eyes? Wondered if she would be able to function?**
- **Dawn Johnston ...**
- **There are times God has asked me to give a financial amount that I thought was impossible ...**
- **Sharon & Sheryl's mom – diagnosed with lung cancer – Dr. to Sheryl – “Go home and get her house in order!”**
- **Pastor Steve & Jill – how was your faith tested through the illness and loss of your spouses?**
- **Steve: one of the greatest blessings from that is to be able to connect with others going through the same situation.**

Jesus allows us to go through tests to build our faith!

Are you going through a test now? Don't give up! Put your faith in the one who can make something out of nothing!

Genesis 1:1-2, 26 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters... Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image...

John 1:1-4 - In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

Jesus is the One who made everything out of nothing – He can make something out of the nothing that seems to be your life right now!

3. Jesus gives live-giving power.

John 6:10-11 - “Tell everyone to sit down,” Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered 5,000.) Then

Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted.

He is life! "I am the bread of life."

There are 7 times in John's book where Jesus says, "I am..." This is the first – Each I AM statement emphasizes an important aspect of the personal ministry of Jesus.

This one tells us that Jesus is the sustenance that nourishes spiritual life.

True spiritual nourishment, which brings eternal life, is possible only for those who accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ – when we put our faith in Him – this same Jesus who performed this miracle on this day – when we put our faith in Jesus we are accepted and incorporated into the Family of God. We remember this every time we take a piece of bread at communion – His body was broken so that we could become part of His body – so we take the bread into ourselves and He works a miracle in us – making us one with Him – It's not just the action of eating – it's the faith that our action displays.

Do you believe not only that this story took place – but do you believe that Jesus is the only One that can give real life – spiritual life – eternal life? This is what Jesus was calling upon us to believe when He said, "I am the bread of life."

This was not just a miracle of multiplying food – it was a SIGN of who Jesus was and who Jesus is – because He is alive today and He is eternal! He can still give you the bread that gives life.

This is why we love the Bible and teach the Bible – because the Bible is referred to as our spiritual food – often teaching the Bible is referred to as "breaking the bread of life."

This is the bread that He gives us – and when we study it and it becomes a part of us, we are taking His life, His nourishment, His sustenance into us.

Deuteronomy 30:14 NIV – No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

Isaiah 59:21 NIV – "As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your

children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever,” says the LORD.

Jeremiah 1:9 – Then the LORD reached out and touched my mouth and said, “Look, I have put my words in your mouth!

Romans 10:8 NIV - But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:

Jesus gives when we are empty –

- Life-changing power
- Faith-giving tests
- Life-giving power

4. With Jesus - nothing is wasted.

John 6:12-13 - After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

How many disciples? How many baskets?

The miracles are not wasted – people believe and their lives are changed!

The tests are not wasted – we go through the tests and our faith becomes stronger! Do not despise the testing – it is the method the Lord uses to strengthen our faith –

Romans 5:3-5 - We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

James 1:3-4 - For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

The little amount of food is not wasted –

Philip saw no potential in that small amount – Andrew saw no potential in that small amount –

What is it that you have in your hand in which you see no potential?
What is it that you have in your life for which you see no potential?

“What do you have in your hand, Moses?” – “A rod...”

Aaron’s rod ...

What do you have in your hand? What do you have in your life? What do you have that is powerful for which you see no power?

Growth Track – Step 3 & 4 ...

“Little is much when God is in it!”

Song – Nothing is Wasted –

- **Worship team come**

You know my every need
You see my poverty
You are enough for me, Jesus

You gave the blind their sight
You raised the dead to life
You’ve done the same for me, Jesus

You are loving, You are wise
There is nothing in my life You cannot revive
You are loving, You are wise
There is nothing too hard for our God

Your word inside of me
My strength, my everything
My hope will always be Jesus

Your breath inside my lungs
You’re worthy of my trust
You will forever be Jesus

You are loving, You are wise
There is nothing in my life You cannot revive
You are loving, You are wise
There is nothing too hard for our God

Nothing is wasted
You work all things for good
Nothing is wasted
Your promise remains
Forever You reign

What fragments of a test is left over in your life?

What fragments of a mess are laying around on the ground?

You needed a miracle – God gave a miracle – God allowed you to be tested – God gave life – what is left? There are some fragments through the miracle – through the test – through the life-giving power, there has been some pain.

God has loved you through it all, and there is nothing that He wants to be wasted in your life!

We are free to win when we realize that through ups and downs – miracles, tests, life-giving power – through it all – nothing is wasted – no test is wasted – no struggle is wasted –

He works all things for good!

Romans 8:28 – And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

1st Corinthians 10:13 – The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Nothing is wasted! You are free to win and freed to win!

John 6:14-15 - When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!" When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.

Prophet – not Messiah –

Who do you believe He is? Is your faith fully in Him to do what no other power can do?

These message notes are the intellectual property of Randy Blankenship and are intended for the reader's personal use only. For any other use please contact Randy Blankenship at RandyBlankenship@newlife4kokomo.org