

Serving and Seeing

Bible verses John 6: 1-15

Brett McBride

Consider

- **Discuss:** Are there needs in our church or in our city (or in our World) which seem overwhelming to you; for which you don't seem to see any resolve or way that they can be met? Have each person share one overwhelming need. Discuss why each person may share about a different need. When you share, discuss why you think that need is overwhelming.

Let's Examine

Read John 6:1-14

- **Discuss:** Define the dilemma facing the disciples. Why is it overwhelming?
- **Discuss:** What are the humanistic responses which Philip and Andrew propose? Discuss why it seem impossible to meet the need? What was their focus on?
- **Discuss:** Brett said, *"Charles Price once noted: Both Philip and Andrew – are professing believers – but practical atheists."* What does this mean? Is it a challenge to you? Why/why not? (If it is, what steps can you take to shift where you look for solutions?)
 - **Discuss:** What is the one thing which Jesus had that they missed?

Jesus has called His disciples to do something that seems impossible – and so it raises the question:

So, how does it work?

How do we move forward when it seems too big for us.

Look at what Jesus does – and where His focus is!

- **Discuss:** Describe what Jesus did which was different than his disciples. What does that teach us about how we should approach serving God?
- **Discuss:** Brett said: **Serving leads to seeing.** Describe how the disciples 'saw' serving God modelled by Jesus. Describe what they 'saw' as a result of their front row seat in this story. How is that four-word phrase true for any serving opportunity you may take up at The Peoples Church? What sort of 'things' might you 'see'?

Let's Apply

Brett said: *Serving Jesus in ministry can feel like this: impossible!*

What do you do when God calls you to do something that is way beyond your resources or abilities – and you know that apart from a miracle it is not even remotely possible?

Are you obedient to the calling – or are you distracted, discouraged, or doubting?

- **Discuss:** Discuss the questions which Brett presented in the quote above. What are your answers to them?
- **Discuss:** Is everyone in your group serving in some way? Are there good reasons that someone might not be able to serve at The Peoples Church? If someone is not serving, are there ways that the group can be supportive of them, or encourage them to see how they might be able to serve?
- **Discuss:** How do you move from where you are today to being a person who believes even more fully in the response of God to prayer?

Personal reflection: You may have been taught in numerous ways through your upbringing, education, and culture to have a certain view or perspective of yourself and what you have to offer in service to God. Do you think it is accurate? Can you count your blessings which allow you to see how much He has given/prepared you? Do other people in your group see strengths in you? Sit quietly with God and ask Him if you are being obedient to Him about where you are serving. What is He saying? Ask a trusted friend if they believe that you are hearing correctly. Pray together about how you are or could be serving.

Let's Pray

Pause and quietly consider what the Holy Spirit is saying to you.

- Spend time praising God: Worship him for who he is.
- Confess (silently or out loud) when you have not served the Lord, but rather have focused on serving yourself, your fear, or your feeling of inadequacy.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower each person in your group to evaluate how they are serving the Lord and seek to worship him through serving others.
- Continue to pray for the church around the world; for many to worship God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength!

Holy Spirit, empower us with the love of the Father to join Jesus in his mission. Grow us as your body for your global mission. Through Christ we pray. Amen.