

The Miracles of Jesus

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Speaker: **C. Elijah Bronner**

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C. Elijah Bronner: Your future doesn't lie ahead of you waiting to happen, it lies deep inside you waiting to be discover.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is part 3 of the series titled, "The Miracles of Jesus by C. Elijah Bronner." This message is number 7818. That's 7818. Listen to over a thousand free messages on BrothersofTheWord.com.

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Female: And now for 7818, The Miracles of Jesus Part 3.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining brothers of the word, because brother you need the word. We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at BrothersofTheWord.com or Facebook Live, welcome to today's service. Always a wonderful delight and joy to have you joined us. Well, we would like to share just a little humor. A Sunday school teacher, she asked the children just before she dismiss them to go to church and she said, "and why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" and little Annie replied, "because people are sleeping." We are sharing over in the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John 6. And we have been sharing this particular account and we have entitled this series, "The Miracles of Jesus." So, this is part 3. The Miracles of Jesus Part 3. John 6, we will pick up in verse 5, we will read down John 6, begin with Verse 5.

When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, where shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, there is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes a much as they would. And when they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore, they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets

with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. And we'll stop right there.

And so, we are talking about the miracles of Jesus and just to kind of summarize some of the main principles that we gleaned from this account, just to refresh your memory. We have talked about the way that Jesus focused on people. He was concerned about people. And let us know that it's so important to be concerned about people. You have to connect with people and with said, you need to focus on people, be likable, show others that you care, remember everyone's names, walk slowly through the crowd and be generous. You have to connect with people. You need people and so Jesus illustrates his care and his concern for us. Jesus cares for us. He cared about the crowd. He cared about people. So, we care for people. Number two, we talked about how God tests us and how life is a test. He tests our character, our faith, our obedience, our love, our loyalty. God is always monitoring our response to difficult people. He is always monitoring our response to difficult challenges. So, life is a test. And we said every day is an opportunity to trust God, to love people and to deepen our character. And then number three, we talked about not limiting God by assuming that something is not possible. I believed that Jesus Christ here challenges us to believe larger, to think bigger, to expand our possibilities and so he actually is turning on the switch of our imagination. And he is enlarging our capacity and our thinking and our believing to think big and so don't limit God by impossibilities.

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Life is too full and too rich with possibilities to have restrictions placed on it. And so, God is not limited by what we have. And so, Jesus teaches possibility thinking here. I like something that John Maxwell. He shared four points about possibility thinking. He said, "possibility thinking increases your possibilities. When you believe, you can do something difficult and succeed, many doors open for you. It actually draws opportunities to you." So, when you are possibility thinker, you began to embrace possibilities and open yourself to possibilities and achieve things, you actually open the door to more, more opportunities.

Number two, possibility thinking increases possibilities for others, is contagious. You can't help but be more confident and think bigger when you are around other possibility thinkers. You must think about the fact that Peter walked on the water? Where

do you think he got that idea from? Because he was walking with the water walker. He saw Jesus walking on the water and he did something to him made him want to walk on the water. Well, that is because he was hanging around a possibility thinker. No one had ever thought about walking on the water until they saw Jesus walking on the water. So, it's contagious. So, when you are around, other people who think big and are possibility thinkers, you can't help but to be more confident and to think bigger as well.

Number three, possibility thinking gives you energy. When you are working on something that you believed can succeed, that gives you energy. You are excited about the possibility. You are excited when you are working on something that can be big. When you are working on something that could be a game changer, that can be made, it actually fuels you, the possibility of it excites you and so possibility thinking gives you energy.

And number four, possibility thinking keeps you from giving up. No wonder Thomas Edison, they said, he took him 10,000 tries to get the light bulb perfected. Well, he wouldn't give up because he knew it was possible. He believed it was possible and he said that I didn't fail 10,000 times. I simply found 10,000 ways that don't work. Where possibility thinking keeps you from giving up. So always looked for possibilities in every situation. Always looked for possibilities in every situation. Look for possibilities. Don't ask, "can I" but ask "how can I?" It opens up your mind to the possibility of it. That you can do it. You may not know how to do it, but it is possible to get it done. It is possible to do it. And so, possibility thinking is powerful. For possibility to take place in your life, you should keep your body fit, you should keep your heart trust in God, you should renew your mind and you should keep your comfort zone expanding, keep your curiosity strong.

I was reading a book a couple of weeks ago and it was talking about people who really thrive in their later years and lived to be long livers and they lived to ripe old ages. And they did a study. And number one of the things that they found for you to thrive and become a very, very, very old person, one of the ways to thrive as you become older is to always keep your curiosity, always learn new things and if at all possible, try to learn things that are completely opposite to the things that you already proficient in now. So, let's say for instance if you are a mathematician, don't learn new math, and it said learning something that's completely opposite brain. So, if you're a mathematician, learn how to draw

or learn how to play the piano, something that is artistic and completely opposite because that opens up your learning and it keeps you sharp, or if you are artistic then maybe you need to learn some math. So, you do something that's completely opposite. If you are indoors' person then try to learn something outdoor. So, if you are outdoors' person, you try to learn something indoors. You do something completely opposite than what you used to doing and that actually does something for the brain and it does something for your longevity.

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It causes you to thrive and keeps your brain sharp so that you can be focused and well-adjusted into your later years. So, you want to keep your comfort zone expanding, you want to keep your curiosity. They have some interesting accounts in the book. They talked about some notable people who up and age. They talked about people like former president Jimmy Carter and he's in his 90s now and he said that once he finished all of the big things, he said he learned, he took up oil painting. So, he learned to be an oil painter. He actually paints and sells his all paintings. He also said he took up making furniture, making handcrafted wooden furniture and he sells his furniture. Well, he was keeping his curiosity fresh. He was learning new things, doing new things and that's one of the reasons that he is so sharp, he's thriving. I mean, he outlived one of his grandchildren. He outlived one of his grandchildren but he's thriving in his 90s so even after doing big things around the world and big things in running the country and all of these things yet he's still learning new things. He's keeping his curiosity sharp.

So, you have to learn new things. Tony said learn new things. Learn new things. Learn new things. I mean, take a class on pottery, take a class on poetry, take a class on photography. Learn new things. Learn a new language. Learn a new language, learn Spanish or learn French or learn Arabic. Learn German. So, you want to keep your curiosity growing. These are all things that are a part of being a possibility thinker where you keeping your comfort zone expanding and you're keeping your mind fresh and you're opening yourself up to possibilities. Then we talked about that it is not how much you have but using what you have. Not how much you have. They only have two fish and five loaves.

Now, when I went back and really studied what most commentators said about the size of those fish, these were not, you know, you've seen the pictures of the big loaves and the couple of big fish. No. When you study the history of it, most scholars believe that those were very, very small fish. Probably because - these were fish that were probably pickled and preserved. These were not raw fish. These things were ready to eat. So, these were small fish probably like, you know, I almost want to say almost like sardines. So, it is a small fish. These were very small fish and so that makes a miracle, that much more impact. Well, this is not too big fish and all of these, you know, big loaves. No, this was a very small compact little lunch here. And so, it was very interesting. But it's not about how much you have but it's about using what you have. It's about maximizing what you have. I think the principle that Jesus is teaching us is maximizing what you have. Using what you have no matter how small it is.

And so, we talked about the principle of going and seeking. Go and see. Jesus told the disciples in one account, he said, "go and see what you can find. Go see what we have." So, you have to explore, you have to take inventory of what you have and then maximize what you have. We said this that your future doesn't lie ahead of you waiting to happen, it lies deep inside you waiting to be discovered. There is some hidden treasures, there is some hidden talents, there is some hidden gifts, there is some hidden unknown things. There are some things that are in us and we may not have discovered. We don't realize what we have because it may seem small or overlooked but know we are to go and seek. Find out, take inventory, find out what we have and then maximize what we have.

I was reading the account by Lady. She had done a lot of things in her life but she had been in a military for about 20 years and she had done this job in that job but she always felt that she wanted to be a writer and finally, when she got out of the military, she pursued that dream and she says today, she's writing books. She's a published author and she's writing books and getting book deals and doing articles and she's living the dream and she said that was in her all along. That was in her all along but she just never pursued it. So, you have to take inventory, what's in your heart, what's in your life. It could be just an overlooked gift, an overlooked possibility, something that you don't even realize or recognize as there but it's nearby. The little boy with a two fish and five loaves, he was nearby. He was in the camp. He was

there all along. And so, a lot of times, it's nearby. We can just discover what's already there and then God can breathe on it and use it to do great things.

Then, we talked about the principles that you're never too young or too old to be of service to Christ. Never too young. Take a little boy's fish. This was not a grown man. This is a little boy's fish. Just to illustrate, you are never too young, you're never too old to be used in service of Christ. Never too young and never too old.

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And this is what where we left on Verse 11. We left off here and says, "And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down." Now, I want you to notice this that the people who received the food, the disciples brought it to him but it was Jesus who sent it. All of our blessings come from Christ. All of our blessings come from the hand of Christ no matter who brings it to you. They're just sent but it comes from Jesus. And so, the disciples carried it but they didn't do the miracle. They were just passing it out. Jesus did the miracle in his hands. They brought it. And so, all of our blessings come from Christ no matter who brings it to us. They ultimately come from his hands. And so, then we also find out that here between the hands of Christ and the hungry multitude, there's opportunity for ministry. Opportunity for ministry so God allows us to minister between his supply and the needs of people, we are able to work right in the middle. Isn't that wonderful? God let us work. He let us work in the ministry between his supply and then serving others. Praise God. That's where ministry is born. Ministry is born.

And we said that in every Biblical miracle, there are three things required. First, it must be a need. Everybody say need and number two, you must be willing to participate and number three, it requires obedience. It requires faith and obedience. Number one, it always has to be a need. Number two, you must be willing to participate. Number three, it takes faith and obedience. So, the disciples had to participate. They had to go look for that lunch. They had to serve the crowd. Notice how they were involved. So, he purposely involves us. We participate and then we have to obey. They had to tell the people to sit down. They had to tell the people where to sit and so you have to be obedient.

So, you always have to have a need. You got to be willing to participate and you have to be willing to obey our faith.

Now, then we talked about here between the not sufficient when there was not enough and then where there was some leftover. The over and above. Between the not sufficient and the over and above is the giving of thanks. Is the giving of thanks. So, thanks, giving thanks is the prerequisite for miracles. Terri Savelle Foy says, "gratitude is a magnet for miracles." Gratitude is a magnet for miracles. And so, we give thanks for what we have. You'll be surprised a number of miracles that Jesus did where he stopped and gave thanks before the miracle was done. He gave thanks in advance. He did this on several occasions. Jesus gave thanks before the miracle was performed. He was thanking God for what he already had. Man, this life of gratitude is powerful. The life of gratitude is powerful. He was giving God thanks. When you live a life of gratitude, Johannes Gaertner said, "to live gratitude is to touch heaven." To live gratitude is to touch heaven. If you want to get heaven's attention, be a grateful person. Always be thankful, always be grateful. It keeps you in touch with heaven when you're grateful and thankful.

Colossians 3:15, and one translation says, "practice being grateful." Another translation says, "learn to be grateful." It's a way of life. Practice it, learn it because gratitude is a magnet for miracles. Gratitude is a magnet for miracles. I have a little one-minute video that shows the power of gratitude.

Male:

So, when a person shows up in a doctor's office, and they're given the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis or MS or cancer, diabetes, the common emotions they experience is either fear or sadness. They can think positively all they want. They can say, "I'm going to overcome this condition." But if they are feeling fear, that thought never makes it past the brainstem into the body because it's not in alignment with the body's emotional state. You get that person to change their emotional state and get them into a state of gratitude. Why gratitude? We normally give thanks when we get something. Your body is believing, it's receiving something because the emotional signature of gratitude means it's already happened. So, when a person is beginning to experience gratitude, they're more prone to accept believe and surrender to the thoughts equal to that emotional state and they begin to program their autonomic nervous system into a different destiny.

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C. Elijah Bronner: Isn't that powerful? Gratitude works on a level, we're not even aware of. We are not even aware of the mental, the psychological, the physiological things that happens within a person's being when gratitude is enacted. See, there's stuff that work we're not even aware of, but God knows all of that. That's why he tells you to be grateful, be thankful, give thanks and everything, give thanks. This is the will of God concerning you and Christ Jesus. But there are so much work here with gratitude is a magnet for miracles. When you're grateful for which you already have. When you're grateful for what God has already done. When you're grateful for what is right in your life. When you're grateful for God in his rich blessings. When you're grateful for God answering your prayer even before he answers it. That's what Jesus did. Jesus gave thanks. To the Father, thank you.

Now, his thanksgiving is not recorded for what he said, but I'm just at living. I'm sure he said, "Father, thank you so much. Thank you so much. Thank you so much for this little lunch here. Thank you for the generosity that little boy who gave it. This lunch is embraced in generosity and is received with love." Father, I have a heart to bless this people who are here today and this international is not enough, but Father, you are the source of all things. The whole earth is yours and all of heaven's bounty, is that my dispose, it's nothing too hard for you and nothing you can't do. And Father, I just believe right now that the supply will meet the demand, will meet the need and overtake it and overflow it. And I just give you thanks for it. Thank you, Father for this beautiful day. Thank you for all of this wonderful people who've come out and enjoy, the ministry have been blessed, people that answer to your kingdom and in kingdom life and your spirit. People's lives have been changed and you've done miracles and they're missed. People who hunger for the -- Father, we just celebrate you today and we just thank you for this banquet. We thank you for this gathering and this in, I started saying in Jesus name, but he is Jesus.

So, I say my name, Father that I ask all of these, thank you for. Amen. That miracle begins to manifest there, but it's Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving touches heaven. Thanksgiving touches heaven. It's a magnet for miracles. And then I just love, I'm wrapping up here, last couple of points. Notice in Verse 11, they had as much as they wanted. It isn't that something? It

went from not knowing how we're going to feed them until they had as much as they wanted. I like that. It was not rational. It wasn't like you get one piece of bread and you get one piece of fish and that's it. I've been there some serving lines and that's the reason they have servers so that you can't get what you want. They have servers there to give you a portion and they do that to make sure that the food doesn't run out and so that no greedy person fills their plate up and then there's not enough for other people at the back of the line. So, you put servers in place to eliminate that. And so, you give them one scoop of potatoes, you give them one scoop of peas, you give them one chicken leg and you give them a roll and you send them off. But I loved it. That's not the way they served here. They had as much as they wanted. Isn't that awesome? But I'm going to raise my hand. So, bring me another piece of that fried fish over here and I take two more rolls. They had as much as they wanted. They had as much as they wanted. They had as much as they wanted. That's God's bounty. And then even after they finish, they will steal over and above. That's why a cup running over. That's God's divine blessing! He's abundant! He is the God of more than enough! He is the God of more than enough.

He gives us more than enough so that we can share with others. They took out 12 baskets full. Now, they were able to take that man and I'm sure they gave the little boy who donated. I'm sure they gave him a full basket to take home. And I'm sure they went and pass it out to other neighboring communities, people that needed food. Man, and they just kept the celebration going, the miracle supply of God. Praise God. He is a God of more than enough. He is a God of abundance. God has no shortages. There is no shortages with God. He is a God of more than enough. He is the El Shaddai in our lives. Praise God. And then, the final point, Verse 12 says, "gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." Even, the broken pieces of our lives can be used to be a blessing to someone. The fragmented places of your life that have been broken, the disappointments, the hurt, shame that you've gone through.

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God doesn't waste any of our experiences. He gathers them up so nothing would be lost. He'll use it for his glory. He'll sanctify and use everything you've been through for his glory. Gather up the fragments that nothing be lost. He weighs no part of our lives, no

part of life's experiences God waste none of it. He uses it for his glory. He didn't want anything to be wasted. And I close with this, this is something my good friend, Dr. Jason Thomas. He shared with us one time and I wrote it down when he was here. He talked about these broken pieces. He says, brokenness, number one, it creates humility in our heart. When your life has been broken, it humbles you. It creates humility in our heart. Number two, It provides you with more to give. If you have one piece of bread and you break it into two, now you can share with somebody else because you've been broken. It gives us more to give. Number three, brokenness provides the necessary pieces to create a beautiful mosaic, beautiful work of art is made by the broken pieces of our lives. Number four, you never know which part of your brokenness God will use. That's why he says, gather all the fragments. You'll never know which part of your brokenness God will use. He could use your divorce. He could use the cancer you've been through. He could use the death of the love one in your life. You never know which part of your brokenness God will use.

And Number five, God is creative with our broken pieces. God is creative with our broken pieces. Praise God. Those of you are watching this live. I want you to go to BrothersofTheWord.com. You can listen to this series and its entirety, The Miracles of Jesus. Absolutely free of charge. You can also email it to a friend. Thank you so much for joining us today at brothers of the word because brother, you need the word.

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