

The God That is More than Enough

One of the seven major names of God is Yahweh Jireh, 'God the Provider,' and many of the well-known accounts in the scriptures where God or Jesus supplies needed provision, demonstrate that God can indeed "supply all our needs according to His riches in Glory."

Perhaps the clearest example of this is in the feeding of the 5000. When Jesus tells the disciples to go to town to buy bread for this multitude of around 20,000 people,(most of the 5000 had wives and children with them,) Philip demurs, saying the twenty dinars they were given was not enough to feed so many. He had his eye on the economic reality of a *demand* much bigger than the *supply* on hand.

Then a little boy comes with 5 bun-sized loaves and two small fish, and Jesus says, "Bid the people sit down." Then He divides the loaves and fishes into 12 baskets and bids his disciples distribute the food. Amazingly, each hungry person received "as much as he could eat." At the end Jesus bids his helpers gather up the fragments, "that none should be wasted." Some of these were given to the boy who went away with more than he could carry. Notice the food lasted exactly as long as there was a need and then abruptly stopped. The boy *sowed* all the little, that he had, but *reaped* lots. That's how God can multiply back to givers "30, 60, or 100" fold the amount sown.(Mt 13:8)

It was the same with the manna God provided for the hungry Israelites, who blamed Moses for their shortage. When Moses prayed in faith, manna rained down covering the area, and it too was exactly enough for one day's need. Those trying to store it up for future use, couldn't, because it rotted. Clearly, God wants His people to pray in faith each day, for "their daily bread."

Then there was the incident of Elijah and the widow, whom God had asked to feed him with her last meager supply of oil and flour. Elijah told her to go to the neighbors and get vessels, “not a few.” Then Elijah begins filling the vessels with a non-stop supply of oil from the cruet he blessed for the widow. That supply kept coming as long as there was a clay vase to receive it, but when the last was full, the oil stopped flowing. Elijah told the widow she could sell the fresh oil for an income to live on for the rest of her life. She too gave all of the little she had and was hugely blessed.

When Jesus told Peter and his brother Andrew, who had been toiling all night catching nothing, to “move out into the deep and let down their nets for a catch,” their nets came up, bursting with enough fish to nearly sink both boats.

This totally baffled Peter, a pro fishermen who thought he knew how to fish, following traditional methods, but Jesus didn't operate by the traditions of the world, but rather from God's divine law of Grace. “Give and it will be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.”

As Joseph Prince so sagely points out, “the law demands” do this, do that and do do do some more. But “grace supplies” and God is indeed not only the God of love, but the God of Grace. Both “love and grace” share the exact same Hebrew word - *hesed*. It is also defined as “loving kindness and tender mercy.” No single word, says Prince, quite catches its full meaning.

Grace,”unmerited favor,” says, “freely receive and freely give.” Freely means, with no legal strings attached, no conditions to be met. None of us have earned the gifting God has given us by which we earn our livings; each of us is born with his or her own unique set of abilities or talents. Thus, Paul can truthfully say, “it is by grace we are saved, through faith, and not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Eph 2:7)

People feeling the need to display or prove their worthiness have likely grown up under Mosaic legalism: ‘Unless you obey and do *this* you won’t get *that*.’ The good news is God loves each of us in spite of our flaws, “just as we are, without one plea.” His *hesed*, (“loving kindness and tender mercy”) is unconditional. Truly, if our own goodness and obedience bought the ticket, only the perfect people would see salvation. But, thanks to Jesus, we “the wretched refuse,” get to “fly away” first class. He purchased our passage with His blood, and once saved, we *want* to do good things for the Lord.

24-03-28-

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for the Daily News