

Jesus came to restore us, and restore creation through us

Luke 9:1-6 (NLT) - One day Jesus called together his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. 2 Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. 3 “Take nothing for your journey,” he instructed them. “Don’t take a walking stick, a traveler’s bag, food, money, or even a change of clothes. 4 Wherever you go, stay in the same house until you leave town. 5 And if a town refuses to welcome you, shake its dust from your feet as you leave to show that you have abandoned those people to their fate.” 6 So they began their circuit of the villages, preaching the Good News and healing the sick.

Luke 9:10-17 (NLT) - ¹⁰When the apostles returned, they told Jesus everything they had done. Then he slipped quietly away with them toward the town of Bethsaida. ¹¹But the crowds found out where he was going, and they followed him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick.

¹²Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to him and said, “Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place.” ¹³But Jesus said, “You feed them.” “But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. “Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?” ¹⁴For there were about 5,000 men there. Jesus replied, “Tell them to sit down in groups of about fifty each.” ¹⁵So the people all sat down. ¹⁶Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread and fish to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. ¹⁷They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers!

Study Guide

As we continued in our series “Go!” this last Sunday, we moved our biblical gaze from the story of creation to that of Jesus’ life. If humanity was placed in creation to know God and to make God known, that purpose was distorted when sin entered the world. Sin cut us off from God, making it impossible to make Him known through humanity. But Jesus’ death and resurrection restores us to right relationship with God. And now, once we receive grace, we are called to participate in the restoration of others!

Take a moment to read specifically Luke 9:12–17. This passage is famously known for Jesus’ miraculous act of feeding 5000 people. Yet, the only reason this miracle happened was because Jesus first told the disciples to feed the people.

There are moments in our life where we now see a problem; that problem may very well feel like it is too much for us to handle—just like the disciples must have felt when Jesus told them to provide food for 5000 men. Yet, we no longer are powerless to act, or rather, by being restored to God, His power can act through us to see the brokenness around us restored.

In your experience, where have you seen brokenness and dysfunction? How do you think you would approach bringing peace or care in that area of brokenness? Take a moment to pray and ask God how you can restore relationships or uphold peaceful justice in the areas of brokenness around you.