

7/26/15 "FAITH MAKES IT WORK" based on John 3:1-21

Quote based on "Oh, God" movie (1979), with God speaking: "It can work. If you find it hard to believe in me, maybe it will help to know that I believe in you."

- Question is always, 'do we have the will or faith to make it work'
- Jesus made it work, and fed the multitude
- Barclay's interpretation: People had food, but wouldn't share it until Jesus took the meager resources of the young boy. Others then shared, moved by Jesus' gracious example. More than enough was provided
- Greatest miracle was the change in people's hearts, not the physical change

Two contrasting reactions from within fellowship

- Philip, who says: "how are we to buy bread for all to eat?" Situation was hopeless
- Andrew, who found the lad with 5 barley loaves and 2 fish. Christian faith led him to act
- The lad, who out of a child-like faith was willing to give, as Jesus later did with his life

What seems like a small amount can often be a large help when given out of Christian love

- Christians helping to start a congregation or building a structure have seen what Christian faith can accomplish, despite cries of 'it'll never work' or 'we can't do that'
- We never seem to have enough to meet needs around us, but small donations or a little time spent listening meets needs
- All things are possible through Christ who strengthens us. God multiplies our gifts by changing hearts
- No need to wait. What we have is sufficient when coupled with Christian faith

We are called to witness God's power through lives given over to God. It can and does work because God does believe in us! Why else would God send His only son into the world.