

**When Jesus Calls Us to Serve**  
**By Paul Richard**

I have been thinking about the account of Jesus feeding the multitudes, but not from the perspective of Jesus doing a miracle, but rather from the perspective of Jesus calling the disciples to serve.

The disciples present the problem to Jesus (the people are hungry and they need food) and the solution (send them away). Their solution does not include their involvement. It is an efficient way of dealing with the problem in a way that costs them nothing.

But Jesus throws it back to them — “You feed them.” And the disciples respond with, “Impossible!” They immediately think in economic terms and the limited resources they have. But Jesus has something he wants them and us to learn — *that service has little to do with the resources we have available and more to do with the work that God wants to do through us and in us.*

In the end it did not cost the disciples anything to feed the multitude of people. (How many times have we exhausted our limited resources because we attempted to meet a need without God’s power?) Together with them we learn that our gifts and resources should not be the primary consideration as we seek to serve. Instead, we should be asking, “What does God want to do in this situation and what do we need to learn about Him in the process.”