

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#30 – “The Most Famous Picnic” – Luke 9:10-17

I. Introduction

A. Picnics

1. Pastor Don & Diedre enjoyed them years ago and still do.
- B. Today’s text focuses upon the most famous picnic of all time.
 1. Near the end of Jesus’ Galilean ministry He fed the 5000.
- C. The miracle’s context.

1. The disciples were weary from ministry, but the crowds could not get enough – Mark 6:30-31.

II. Exposition

A. Luke 9:10-11

1. The retreat was interrupted.
2. Jesus preached and healed.

B. Luke 9:12

1. They were located in a remote place.
2. The disciples were actually telling Jesus to make the people leave to find food.
3. They forgot God had provided in the past – II Kings 4:42-44

C. Luke 9:13

1. Jesus commands them to give the people food.
2. Their response had been faithless.
3. There were five thousand men – Luke 9:14
4. The cost would be staggering – John 6:7.

D. Luke 9:14-17

1. Do not let familiarity with the story diminish the extraordinary nature of the event.
2. Illustration – Consider the Sweetheart banquet.
3. Skeptic interpretation.
4. Attested in multiple accounts.

III. Point for Reflection.

- A. God brings us to maturity by showing us our inadequacies and His sufficiency.

1. Note John’s account – John 6:7-9

2. God uses these events to show how inadequate we, in fact, are.

3. Alexander MacLaren.

4. “You give them something to eat.” – Jesus was alluding to II Kings 4:42-44.

5. Do not miss the total number of baskets: 12 – one for each disciple.

B. He is greater than all from the past.

1. Elisha, but also note Moses.

- a. A Solitary place – a desert place. Mark 6:32.

- b. Parallels the wilderness. Jesus is more than a second Elisha or Moses.

C. “Who is this man?”

1. Herod’s question – Luke 9:9.

2. All through chapter 8, Luke has been explaining that Jesus is Lord over everything.

- a. Revelation 4:9-11.

D. Our utter sufficiency is in Christ alone.

1. Note John’s account of the miracle.

- a. Passover was near – Luke 6:4.

- b. 1400 years after the Passover was celebrated as Israel entered the Promised Land and the manna ceased – John 6:10-12.

- c. Jesus’ soon-to-be death would provide salvation from spiritual hunger – Romans 1:16.

2. He is altogether sufficient – Romans 8:32.

E. Always remember that His power is made known through our weakness.

1. II Corinthians 12:9.

2. Robert Morrison and the missionary enterprise to China.

F. Never forget the post script to this story.

1. Recorded in John – John 6:22-66.

2. After the big meal and the ensuing events, who was left? Only the disciples whom He called (John 6:44; 6:65).