

Giving or Taking!

2 Kings 4^{42-end}; Psalm 145¹⁰⁻¹⁹; Ephesians 3^{14-end}; John 6¹⁻²¹

There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish.
[John 6⁹]

Ask for a sweet (dry throat) - anyone prepared to let me have one?

Ask for a £1 - anyone prepared to let me have one?

- ✦ If you heard the Gospel you'll remember that Jesus break with his disciples is disturbed by a crowd heading in his direction.
- ✦ Jesus knew what was going to happen next, but Philip (when asked) hadn't a clue.
- ✦ Andrew decided that he would make a seemingly futile suggestion - a lad with 5 bread rolls and a couple of dried fish!
- ✦ This isn't like communion with a small token of bread and wine - the text is clear when the food was distributed they had **as much as they wanted**.
- ✦ The story goes on - the Disciples have rowed 3 miles out and there is Jesus walking on the water.

The simple point that we can all take from this is that whatever we risk to give to God and the things we share with each other leads to a positive result.

Good point - well made - so what?

BUT - there is more!

Did you notice the word repeated - the word **TAKE**?

- ✦ After Jesus had fed the 500 they wanted **to take [Jesus] by force to make him king**.
- ✦ After the disciples recognised the figure coming towards them on the sea **they wanted to take him into the boat**.

A great many have trouble accepting what they are given and want to change it so that it suits them better.

The point is that Jesus should change us not that we try to change him.

Paul, in his prayer for the Ephesians, tells us what we can hope for if we give-in to God:

- ✦ That we will be strengthened with spiritual power
- ✦ That Christ will dwell in our heart through faith
- ✦ That we will be rooted and grounded in love
- ✦ That we will comprehend the **breadth, length, height and depth** of love.
- ✦ That we will be filled with the fulness of God.

None of this can be taken - but it is much more than we can give.

Give the person who gave a sweet a large bar of chocolate.

Give the person who gave the £1 a £10 note.

The return on faith is much more!