

Luke 9:1-17

Jesus will provide for and through you.

All of life is risk management. More than just a unique industry, our lives are weighed, calculated, and evaluated all to assess, to gauge risk. We have credit scores that lend to the assessment. Records that indicate potential outcomes. Even our DNA can give a sense of what is to come.

More than judgment that makes the world system clip along - we do risk assessment without even thinking about it.

‘How bad will this hurt? How much will it cost? What are the benefits?’

And this is not bad. Assessing risks is good and wise. It is necessary. There are in fact risks in our world. Humans have made it a terrible experience that needs to be managed!

And humans have been running the church. So we are familiar with risk analysis to varying degrees.

For people of faith through, I wonder if we have taken too much confidence in our risk assessment and management over ‘risky faith.’ A risky faith that is really just finding and following the way of the Kingdom.

In our text for today, we have the commissioning of the apostles to preach and heal, and a really big meal. All of it teaching and building faith in Jesus’ followers, a faith that trusts and acts.

We have seen the display of Jesus’ power, mercy, and compassion - the wind and waves were calmed and his questioning “where is your faith?” to which the awe of “who then is this?” settles in.

More of the same in these stories. A model of ministry; provision received and given, and it creates enough of a disruption to make outsiders eager to hear more.

Following the perspective of the apostles, there is much here for us.

Jesus provides for his own

All of Scripture is one big story of provision. God providing. Food, place, identity, security, and ultimately, a life laid down for us. Where all other patterns of religion are about earning, achieving, or arriving; Christianity is about receiving.

It is actually what drives some people crazy - in this faith, there is no transactional control - no management of the risks.

It is like that strange stage of childhood before the teen years when your kid has money and wants to buy something but gets mad when you pay for it!

As Jesus preaches the Kingdom, he is teaching the way of provision. He is training, preparing the apostles for their lives to come. Here Jesus provides what they need and sends them out.

“Summoning the Twelve, he gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. 2 Then he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.” -- **Luke 9:1-2** (CSB)

To drive trust in his provision home he tells the apostles to take nothing for the road. Travel empty-handed to do the work he has called them to.

Think of the fear of a mother 2 miles into a long road trip with kids realizing there are no snacks!

No staff to lean on. No bag for your gear. No bread. No money. Don't even take an extra shirt.

Now, this is not likely the only model - elsewhere he will have them take some supplies. But the point here is this - He is what they need.

His power and authority are what they require. Stay at the house you enter (proving you aren't looking for bigger and better) and preach the Kingdom, heal the sick.

This will be something they will continue to learn. Jesus is enough.

“Jesus also wanted the Twelve to learn to trust him for everything. Faith in him was to be the foundation of their ministry. Significantly, at the Last Supper when he asked them if they lacked anything when he sent them out, they answered, “Nothing” (22:35).” Hughes

This is about ministry, but it is also about life in the Kingdom.

We are a small church - what do we have to offer - surely if we were bigger, bolder, there would be less risk.

I've been hurt before - the church took my time, energy, I am not giving up my baggage.

The way forward, I am convinced is traveling life, trusting Jesus. If all we are carrying is him, we are more likely to smell like him!

“When God calls us to do something for his sake, he provides us with what we need, with what we do not have in ourselves, so that we are able to carry out his will—not in our own strength but in his.” TS

Jesus even says not to sweat those that don't believe - no welcome, shake the dust off. Take nothing but his power and authority.

And it worked. “So they went out and traveled from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing everywhere.” -- **Luke 9:6** (CSB)

They take the risk and the Kingdom goes forth. Jesus provided for them. And that is exactly what he will keep doing. For those following him today, it is by his Spirit that we have what we need.

When they come back they report to Jesus all that they had done. They have the opportunity to evaluate and **see provision** - recognize it.

“The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught. 31 He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest for a while.” For many people were coming and going, and they did not even

have time to eat. 32 So they went away in the boat by themselves to a remote place,” -- **Mark 6:30-32** (CSB)

Like the apostles, we need to take time to see. When we do, it frees us to thrive.

“How like us they were. We remain dull to Christ and his ways, though he has provided for us a thousand times. Jesus does a miracle for us, and yet not much later we find ourselves in a tight spot, and not only do we think God is not adequate for our needs, but we have the cheek to try to tell him what to do!”

Hughes

Jesus provides for his own. If he calls you, he has you.

“Yesterday, God helped me,
Today He’ll do the same.
How long will this continue?
Forever—praise his name.

Not only will he provide for you, but he will also provide for others through you.

Jesus provides through his own

Think of the lives changed because the Apostles went out...

Then Jesus welcomes the crowd. Their rest was short-lived.

“When the crowds found out, they followed him. He welcomed them, spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.” -- **Luke 9:11** (CSB)

But it gets late in the day and these people need food!

This meal is in every gospel - it is important. In John 6 it will be the venue for what I think is the most important teaching of Jesus and faith.

The twelve - who have just experienced God’s provision in their ministry - want to send the crowd away and Jesus says “You give them something to eat.”

I get it. I feel for the apostles. They were enjoying rest and then it is right back to ministry! And the problem doesn't need to be theirs! We live this don't we?

A problem arrives, and the solution must be elsewhere. When are these people going to take care of themselves? When is the government going to provide?! The solution might be in other hands, but when Jesus has called you to solve it, he will use you to solve it.

So the apostles do a risk assessment... 5 loaves of bread, 2 fish, 5000 men. It doesn't add up.

“By making them assess their situation, Jesus showed them that their resources were insufficient. Feeding the crowd was humanly impossible; it required divine assistance.” Tony Evans

Jesus has them organize, he took the little they had, blessed it and broke it and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the crowd.

Jesus is doing a lot here.

“This wilderness meal not only refers to a past event (the feeding of the Israelites with manna; Ex. 16:1–36) but hints at God's continual provision for us and the promise that one day we will no longer be hungry in this broken world but satisfied in a renewed one (Luke 6:21). This is the forward-looking hope that is at the center of the gospel.”

And he is using his followers to distribute hope. He multiplies the food and used his disciples to pass it on.

“Everyone ate and was filled. They picked up twelve baskets of leftover pieces.” --
Luke 9:17 (CSB)

This great miracle speaks first and foremost of the sufficiency of Christ's life for our salvation.

And the utter satisfaction given to the people through the miracle of Christ's supply means that he is sufficient for any need in life.

There wasn't enough, then with Jesus, there was more than enough.

This will shape the apostolic ministry. To be there, to see the provision of Christ, to give what they have, and be the provision of Christ to others.

“It is often our (God-given) duty to attempt tasks to which we are conspicuously inadequate, in the confidence that He who gives them has laid them on us to drive us to Himself, and there to find sufficiency. The best preparation of His servants for their work in the world is the discovery that their own stores are small.” Alexander Maclaren

This is our mission as well - to hand out the provision. To proclaim the good news, and to feed the hungry. To be ambassadors, neighbors, and gardeners tending to the renewal that Jesus is bringing into the world. And it is always the way.

Jesus is “rescuing people from the corruption and decay of the way the world presently is so they could enjoy, already in the present, that renewal of creation which is God's ultimate purpose— and so they could thus become colleagues and partners in that larger project.” NT Wright

It may leave us blessed and broke! Living for the renewal of others and all things. To be provision.

‘We don't have enough to serve families with disabilities...’ *“Have them sit down in groups of 50.”*

‘We are too small to serve and give hope to the invisible in our city...’ *“Looking to heave he blessed and broke them...”*

‘How could my life ever be enough to give hope and the comfort of Jesus to anyone?’ *“Everyone ate and was filled...”*

Jesus will provide for and through you.

Trust Him - the wind and waves obey - his power and authority are yours. Take nothing for the road - go proclaiming the good news. Jesus has you. He provides for you.

Where is he leading you by his Spirit to set aside the risk assessment? To step out in faith, to make him known, to see his provision. Trust Him.

Be Provision - Surrender your trauma, open your hands, pass the bread to those who are hungry. And do it all together - as this family. Who will we feed? Who will Jesus have us sit in groups of 50?

This last week one of our partner churches - The Way in Brea - announced their vision to be rooted in the community for the long haul; "The Way 2025."

Who is going to lead "Reservoir 2025?" Finding a house to settle in, a testimony to give - a people to be fed! Jesus is calling us to it, will your hand be used to pass it on?

Faith like this makes waves - it is a disruption of the status quo. Here Herod the mini-king took notice, rumors had it John the Baptist was back, or Elijah - but something significant was afoot. "Who is this I hear such things about? And he wanted to see him." v.9

May we see holy disruption in our day - he has welcomed us, like he did the crowd that day. Let's welcome others in faith, seeing provision and being provision, for his glory and for our good.