

A cyclist wearing a red and black jersey, black tights, a white helmet with red accents, and red sunglasses is riding a road bike on a dirt path. The background is a dry, open landscape under a cloudy sky. The text 'MOVING TOWARD MATURITY' is overlaid on the left side of the image. The word 'MOVING' is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, 'T O W A R D' is written in smaller, spaced-out white letters. Below that, 'MATURITY' is in large, bold, white letters. To the left of the text is a solid red vertical bar and two thin white vertical lines.

MOVING T O W A R D MATURITY

HEBREWS 6:1A NIV

¹Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity.



MARK 6:30-37A NIV

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."



MARK 6:30-37A NIV

³²So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.



MARK 6:30-37A NIV

³⁵By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late.

³⁶Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

³⁷But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

MARK 6:37B-44 NIV

They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

³⁸"How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."



MARK 6:37B-44 NIV

³⁹Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided

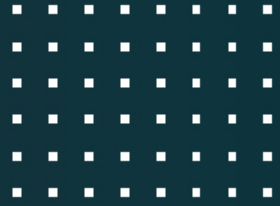


MARK 6:37B-44 NIV

the two fish among them all. ⁴²They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.



QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS WELL-KNOWN STORY



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Why did the
disciples want
to send the
people AWAY?

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS WELL-KNOWN STORY



Why did the disciples want to send the people **AWAY**?

What if Jesus had **AGREED** to send the crowds away?

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS WELL-KNOWN STORY



Why did the disciples want to send the people **AWAY**?

What if Jesus had **AGREED** to send the crowds away?

Why did Jesus want to **INCLUDE** the disciples?

MARK 6:37A NIV

³⁷But he answered, "You give them something to eat."





This was not only a command
it was an INVITATION into
the MIRACULOUS.

HOW DO WE OBEY THE DIRECTION OF JESUS AND GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT?

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MOVING TOWARD MATURITY

We don't let the **NATURAL** keep
us from the **SUPERNATURAL**.

MARK 6:37B NIV

They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"



God often times adds His SUPER to our NATURAL to do something supernatural.



HOW DO WE OBEY THE DIRECTION OF JESUS AND GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT?



MOVING TOWARD MATURITY

We take INVENTORY.

MARK 6:37A NIV

³⁸“How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”



24 SPIRITUAL GIFTS FROM SCRIPTURE

ADMINISTRATION

APOSTLESHIP

CRAFTSMANSHIP

DISCERNMENT

EVANGELISM

EXHORTATION

FAITH

GIVING

HEALING

HELPS

HOSPITALITY

INTERCESSION

KNOWLEDGE

LEADERSHIP

MERCY

MIRACLES

MISSIONARY

MUSIC/WORSHIP

PASTOR/SHEPHERD

PROPHECY

SERVICE

TEACHING

TONGUES

(and interpretation)

WISDOM

HOW DO WE OBEY THE DIRECTION OF JESUS AND GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT?



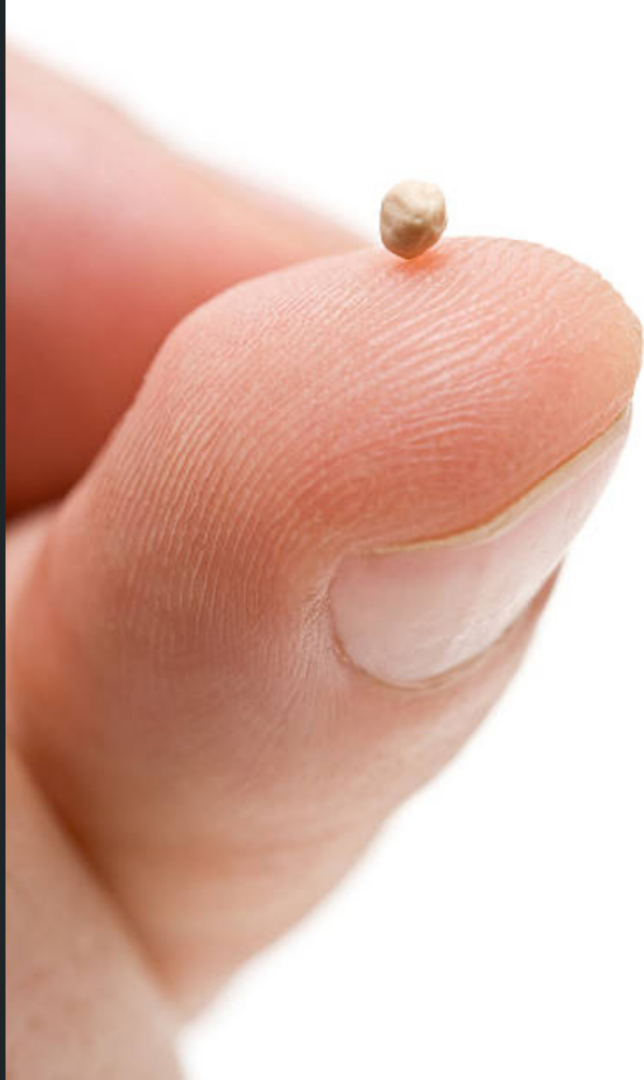
MOVING TOWARD MATURITY

We are willing to give
our **LITTLE** to Jesus.

MARK 6:41A NIV

⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.





If we neglect to give God our LITTLE, we may miss out on experiencing God doing something BIG.

HOW DO WE OBEY THE DIRECTION OF JESUS AND GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT?



MOVING TOWARD MATURITY

We must be willing to **MOVE**
among the people and distribute.

MARK 6:41B NIV

Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people.



It is terrible stewardship
to take what God has
given us and **HOLD** on to it.



HOW DO WE OBEY THE DIRECTION OF JESUS AND GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT?



MOVING TOWARD MATURITY

We celebrate what Jesus does
for **OTHERS** while enjoying what
He is doing in **US** and through **US**.

MARK 6:42-43 NIV

⁴²They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.





MOVING TOWARD MATURITY

Serving is not something I want
FROM you; it is something I want
FOR you.



MARK 10:42-45 NLT

⁴²So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ⁴³But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader



MARK 10:42-45 NLT

among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

