

“Blessed Be Your Name”
By General Pastor Peter F. Paine
January 16th, 2011

I thought the name of this message was, “A Vision For Victory,” but, during the singing this morning, I realized that I had been mistaken; the title of today’s message is, “Blessed Be Your Name.” When God blesses us, we need to let people know. “When the darkness closes in...” when it’s a struggle just to smile, “...still I will say, blessed be Your name.” Jesus is alive and well and very capable. Don’t think of Him as a God that was, He is the God that is.

John 6:1 ...Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.

The sea of Galilee is like a lake, compared to the ocean. You can see across it.

John 6:2 ...a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles...

They followed Him because they saw the miracles which He did on those that were diseased. See, Jesus was living what He taught in Matthew 5:16: “Let your light so shine...” This has to do with our testimony; how we live, how we react. Are you falsely accused? blessed be Your name. Fallen among false brethren? blessed be your name. Who was it that fell amongst false brethren? Apostle Paul did. Paul was beaten and imprisoned, and suffered many things, but he didn’t let that stop him.

John 6:3-5 ...Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him...

Jesus was going to sit with His disciples, but the multitude came. Sometimes your co-workers come to you, or your friends come to you, or needy strangers come to you, and we think, “Oh no, there are problems to be solved?” instead of saying, “Oh, God, I thank you that I know you. You see, I am real clear that I used to be lost. I wasn’t born saved. I have been on death row; I have been privileged to spend the last few minutes of people’s lives before they were executed for their crimes. I am thankful that I didn’t have to go to death row before I saw that I needed Jesus. Some of you are excited to be able to share a testimony; some of you are happy to be saved, but don’t want to see so many needy people around you. You may have the story about the man that was walking along and saw a homeless man, and prayed, “God, please send someone to help this poor man,” and, being the kind of man he was, he heard God reply, “I did. I sent you.”

John 6:5 ...Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

Now, here the Lord is asking a question that He already knows the answer to.

John 6:6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

It says that He asked the question to prove him. Jesus knew that those that were with Him needed to learn something. Watch now, He can make a way when there is no way. Sometimes we make excuses for not being a blessing. Some of you feel that I'm picking on you. Why would I want to pick on you? I don't like finding fault unless it might help us draw closer to God. So let me find a little more fault.

John 6:7 ...Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them...

In Numbers chapter 13, how many spies were there? twelve. And how many brought back an evil report? ten. How many brought back a good report? two. So most of the spies said that they were not able to do what God sent them there to do... God's got something for you and me to do. Feed them some bread. Unless you want to do like it says in James 2:16, and tell them, "Be ye warmed and filled, and go to the church around the corner."

John 6:8-9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes...

Aren't we great advisors to the Lord? He asked how are we going to do this, and Philip tells Him that two hundred pennyworth of bread is not enough, and Andrew says, there is a lad here with five loaves and two small fishes.

John 6:10-11 ...when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them...

By a show of hands, how many people here would say that you are disciples? So God has something for you to do. What He has given to you, He wants you to distribute to other people, as they have need.

John 6:12 ...Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

Clean up is part of our job, too.

John 6:13 ...filled twelve baskets with the fragments...

Now, I can't help but wonder why they had twelve baskets with them. But, of course, the point is, is Jesus able to provide? God is able to provide.

Romans 8:18 ...not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Think for a moment about the most beautiful place you have ever seen. Got it? well, Heaven blows that away. It is not worthy to be compared to what you will experience after you hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Romans 8:28 ...all things work together for good...

What percentage of things? all things. Remember that every day. We are the called according to His purpose. There are going to be things that we don't like, but it all works together for good.

Acts 3:1-11 ...Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee...

Outside the Temple, at the hour of prayer, that's probably a good place to ask for money. It's possible that Peter and John had money for an offering, but that money was already set aside, so when Peter told that lame man, "Silver and gold have I none..." he may have simply meant that all the money he had was already accounted for. I just point that out because some people may think it strange that they would be going to the Temple without an offering. The point is, though, that, even though Peter and John didn't have anything physical with them to meet this man's physical needs, God worked through them and met his needs anyway. "Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise."

We've got to get this attitude of praise, whether it feels good or not, whether it makes sense or not. Doing the right thing doesn't make you a hero; you're a human being for doing the right thing. We've got to let our light so shine, and have a vision for victory.

Jeremiah 29:11-12 ...thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end...

So many times we think that God won't listen to us, that He doesn't care. He promised us that He does care. Do what's right. You're best effort isn't good enough. This is a depressed time of history, but God still wants to bless us. These are challenging times, but I have never been more encouraged in my life.

