

Ephesians 3:20-21 & John 6:4-9

Here's a faith-building exercise: Take one of the miracles of the Bible, any miracle, and write a list of reasons why it couldn't be done. For instance, let's take the feeding of the five thousand. That one's easy because Philip and Andrew already told us why it couldn't be done:

"We don't have enough money" and "There are too many people." Philip and Andrew were right, of course, they *didn't* have enough money, and there *were* too many people.

We can never serve to the "exceeding, abundantly above" level that God desires for us, and God doesn't expect us to. He wants us to come to the end of ourselves and then look to Him to do something bigger than we are capable of.

Here's the thing: God won't do something bigger if we stick with our excuses.

You and I will always have good reasons why we can't press forward in faith. But if we are excuse-orientated, seeing the obstacles as why we can't instead of why God will, we'll never see God do something great through us.

In Mark 6:37, when Jesus told His disciples on the hillside that day, "Give ye them to eat," He knew full well they couldn't do it. He knows our limitations too. But He instructs us to do what we cannot do so we will look to Him for the miraculous.

Unfortunately, instead of looking to Him for the miraculous, we, like Philip and Andrew, often list our reasons why we can't do it.

As our church begins a new fall season of ministry, I could make a list of why reaching Milledgeville, or the world from our church can't be done. I can't change a lost person's heart. Our church family can't turn our community upside down for Christ. We don't have the financial resources to do everything we desire or to support every missionary.

So we can focus on these obstacles, borrowing Philip's line and saying "_____ is not sufficient for _____." Or, we can put our excuses and reasons aside, give our all to the Lord, and just see what He does.

As Benjamin Franklin said, "He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else."

Has God given you an assignment that is bigger than your resources? If so, lay aside excuses, step out in faith, and prepare to see God's work unfold.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.—Ephesians 3:20-21