***Lesson: God’s Miracles: Jesus Feeds Thousands***

***August 11, 2019***

**From Mike:**

In this series of lessons about **God’s Miracles**, I have stressed each week that our God is active and able to do anything and everything He did in the Bible. We call this the providential work of God. He cares and He is involved! He listens and responds to prayer requests. The principle of asking for anything in faith hasn’t changed. Here’s the clincher: What God does has to be seen through the eyes of faith or we, and God, would be violating our covenant of faith. “We walk by faith not by sight.” If that is true—and it is—God can’t do something to violate that principle just because we’d really enjoy seeing an obvious supernatural display of God’s work. Remember Thomas? Jesus told him that he believed because he got to see and touch Jesus, but “blessed” would be all His followers who would have to be convinced as a matter of faith.

 We not only underappreciate God’s work, we are incredibly adept at not seeing His hand in the many things in our life that go well, bless us, and make us happy and save us from pain and sorrow. Our need to be grateful is more important to Him than Him being seen performing something for our lack of faith.

 Now, having talked about God’s involvement in our life, we need to remember that He is not the only spiritual power out there influencing people. Satan and his angels are crouching around all of us like roaring lions looking for a chance to devour/own us. And make no mistake about it, he does own people. Paul called it being a master and us slaves. We either serve what’s right or we serve what is wrong. Why would someone choose to gun down innocent lives and bring so much hurt to an entire nation? They are controlled by hate, selfishness, self-destruction, and the need to be noticed—no matter what the cost. Yes, they are under the control of the Prince of Darkness. They have the same freedom of choice that we do, only they choose evil and we choose godliness. Why didn’t God intervene? How do you know He didn’t? It could have been worse.

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