

THE JOY OF INSUFFICIENCY

“How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” ~Mark 6:38

THE THOMAS FAMILY



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**Bringing the message of Messiah to the
original messengers, and equipping the
Church to do likewise**

LET'S PRAY

THE JOY OF INSUFFICIENCY

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THE JOY OF INSUFFICIENCY

- ☐ What are we afraid of?
- ☐ Where is God leading us?
- ☐ How Shall We Respond?
- ☐ Can We Experience Joy?

WHAT ARE WE AFRAID OF?

- 2007 – Year of big changes in the Thomas family
- Scott & Margie asked us to come to New Zealand
- Fall 2007 – We came to NZ... we really sensed God's calling!
- As we drove, we dreamed, as we dreamed, we planned...
- Adventure, Excitement, Travel, Mission, Purpose, Ministry...
- Why Not...?

“REALITY CHECK”

- Would I have sufficient resources in NZ, to get started?
- Would my I have the right kind?
- Would I have sufficient work and a move?
- Do I have sufficient knowledge in NZ?
- Would I have sufficient skills to be a missionary?
- Could I raise sufficient funds to be a missionary?
- Do I have what it takes? Am I sufficient?

No!
I'm insufficient!

WHAT WAS HOLDING ME BACK?

- I realized I didn't have sufficient means to step out
- Relationship between **SUFFICIENCY** and **FEAR**?
- **FEAR** - an emotion induced by a perceived danger or threat that we are insufficient to meet or protect ourselves against.
- **SUFFICIENCY** – a. possessing what is needed to meet one's needs. b. The quality or state of being sufficient

LOGICAL CONCLUSION

- Sufficiency is a good thing and Insufficiency is a bad thing
- I was asking God for more money, a better job, know His plan
- I was asking God to give me the sufficiency to do His will
- God's purpose wasn't just ministry, it was relationship of trust
- FORMULA: IF God would give me what I need THEN I would obey
- I had been asking God to take away the need for FAITH
- Sufficiency is a bad thing and Insufficiency is a good thing

INSUFFICIENCY IS GOD'S IDEA

*When [Jesus] went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” But [Jesus] answered them, “**You give them something to eat.**”*

~Mark 6:34-36

- *And [the disciples] said to him, “**Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?**” ~Mark 6:37-38*
- *And He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.”*
- *Andrew: “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, **but what are they for so many?**” ~John 6:9*
- Jesus said: “Have the people sit down”, He took the loaves and fishes and he **gave thanks**. And they distributed them to those seated
- Those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. (roughly 15-20,000 people ate and “were satisfied”)
- A Miracle – Experiencing **God’s provision** in spite of **our insufficiency**

INSUFFICIENCY HONOURS GOD!

The healing of the man born lame

*And Peter directed his gaze at [the man born lame], as did John, and said, “Look at us.” And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “**I have no silver and gold**, but what I do have I give to you. **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!**” And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.*

~Acts 3:4-7

INSUFFICIENCY HONOURS GOD!

*While [the healed man] clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in Solomon's portico. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do **you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?** The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus..." ~Acts 3:11-13*

Then Peter began proclaiming the Gospel to them

SO, WAS INSUFFICIENCY GOOD OR BAD?

- Peter and John's **insufficiency** was crucial to the Miracle!
- It was also crucial to the conveyance of the Gospel
- *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were **uneducated, common men**, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. ~Acts 4:13*
- God was glorified! Man heard the Good News!
- The Book of "Acts" isn't about the apostles, it's about God

THIS ISN'T ABOUT US, IT'S ABOUT HIM!

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WHERE IS GOD LEADING US?

- God leads his people into a place of **insufficiency**.
- Before God used Moses (Prince), he converted him (Shepherd)
- He takes Israel out of Egypt and into the desert (40 years)
- The leaders of Israel had to learn dependence on God
- Paul went away into Arabia for 3 years before being used
- The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness (40 days)

MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE

*And you shall REMEMBER that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years **in the wilderness**, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that **man shall not live by bread alone**; but **man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD**. Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you.*

~Deuteronomy 8:3-6

WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE IN THIS?

- A place of training in obedience, love and steadfastness
- A place of chastening, purity, & holiness
- God is preparing himself a spotless bride
- He's using **Insufficiency** to do it!

WHAT IS YOUR DESERT?

What is your place of insufficiency?

- Insufficient money, time, skills, opportunities
- Bad relationships, tedious job, difficult marriage, poor health?
- We naturally ask God to rescue us...
- God uses **insufficiency** to make us into a faithful and glorious bride
- Testimony: “We’ve just wasted the last six years.”
- **It is God who has led us into this desert place**

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HOW SHALL WE RESPOND?

Important:

- You can't put yourself into the desert place... **it must be God**
- You can't get yourself out of the desert... **that will also be God**
- The only real control you have is the rudder
- *Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. ~James 3:4,5*

DEUTERONOMY 1:26-29

“Yet you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. And you murmured in your tents and said, ‘Because the LORD hated us he has brought us out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us... Our brothers made our hearts melt, saying, “The people are greater and taller than we. The cities are great and fortified up to heaven. And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.”’

The **spoke** of their insufficiency, not God’s provision

They **grumbled** and **complained**, rather than speak of the blessing

PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without **grumbling** or **disputing**, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life*

Testimony: being made redundant

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FINDING JOY

- This journey has brought me into a **deep** and **abiding** joy.
- How did I survived a fall from a 55m high structure?
- My deep, abiding joy wasn't dependent on my sufficiency
- This isn't about me, or my sufficiency, it's about Him
- *I know whom I've believed and I'm persuaded that HE is ABLE to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day*

~2 Tim 1:12

LET'S PRAY