



Title | Running on Empty
Series | So You Can Know For Sure
Text | Luke 9:10-17
By | Bob Kerrey
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Sermon Notes

Luke 9:10 On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. 11 When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. 12 Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, “Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place.” 13 But he said to them, “You give them something to eat.” They said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.” 14 For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” 15 And they did so, and had them all sit down. 16 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. 17 And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.
ESV

Big Idea:

Luke 9:13 But he said to them, “You give them something to eat.” They said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.” 14 For there were about five thousand men. . . . ESV

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

In Luke 9:1-6. What do you think it would have been like for the apostles to go out on their own for the first time to represent Jesus? Read Luke 9:10 and Mark 6:30-31. When the apostles reunite with Jesus to give a report on what they had done, what does Jesus do for them? What can you learn from this and how can you apply it?

Tuesday:

Read Luke 9:11-14. What do you think the apostles were thinking and feeling in this situation? Have you ever been in a spot where you felt the Lord was asking you to do what seemed impossible? If so, what happened?

Wednesday

Read Luke 9:15-16. Why do you think Jesus chose to distribute the food in this way, involving the apostles in a process, as opposed to providing food directly for every person instantaneously? In this object lesson, the apostles kept coming back to Jesus in the following cycle: Come empty. Get filled. Give all. Repeat. What can you learn from this?

Thursday:

Read Luke 9:17. After they had begun the day running on empty and being asked to do the impossible, each apostle ends up with a basket full of food. What is the lesson in this?

Friday:

Read Luke 9:10-17. The rhythm of the apostles is: Come empty. Get filled. Give all. Repeat. The rhythm of our culture seems to be: Run empty. Try harder. Burn out. Repeat. Which of the two contrasting rhythms is more descriptive of your life right now? Is a change needed? If so, how can you take the first step?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, I come to you empty, asking you to fill me with what I need to live and bring life abundantly. Amen.

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