



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“I DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH”

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We all have the tendency to focus on what we do not have and what we cannot do. There are dangers about this mindset. God knows what He has given us and will re-focus our eyes on them for His purpose. Hence, when we are asked to do something, especially in our Christian Ministry, let us take stock of all that we have, offer them freely from the heart, and let God do His part.

1. The Dangers of “I DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH” mindset:

- **We become stingy.** Stingy persons always calculate the cost (Prov 23:6-8).
- **We confess death.** When we say, “We do not have enough to share” this may become a reality. Death and life are in the power of the tongue (Prov 18:21).
- **We worry about the future.** We de-bunk Jesus’ teaching in Mt 6: 31, which is not to worry about what we are to eat or drink or wear.
- **We do not trust God and His promises.** Let us trust in the Lord with all our heart, and not rely on our own intelligence (Prov 3:5-8).

2. Examples from the Old Testament

- 2.1. Moses (Exodus 3:13-14)
 - When God called Moses, he was filled with questions and doubts. God assured him: “I AM has sent me to you.”
 - God will always be with us.
- 2.2. Israelites (Numbers 11)
 - The Israelites complained about the manna instead of being grateful. Moses also complained to God about the burden of his mission. The Lord then gave some of the spirit from Moses to 70 other elders to help him.
 - We should stop worrying. Focus on what the Lord provides. Tap others to help us with our mission.

2.3. Elijah and the Widow of Zarepath (1 Kg 17:8- 15), Elisha and the Widow’s oil (2 Kg 4: 1-7)

- In both instances, the widows declared they had nothing but a handful of flour and a little oil.
- Despite their lack, their obedience to the prophets brought blessings: flour and oil that never ran dry.
- When the focus changed from what they lacked to what they could do with what they had, the situation turned around, and poverty turned to plenty.

3. Examples from the New Testament

3.1 The Widow’s Mite (Mk 12: 41-44)

- In giving all that she had, she gave not out of excess but gave to the point of sacrifice.
- Giving out of love, deep commitment and gratitude gets Jesus’ attention.

3.2 The Feeding of the Five Thousand (Mk 6, Jn 6)

- The disciples were concerned that there was not enough food to feed the crowds.
- Jesus re-focused their attention on what they had: the five loaves and two fishes fed the five thousand men and even had excess.

3.3 The Samaritan Woman (Jn 4)

- When Jesus told the woman He could give her living water, the woman focused on what the Lord did not have – a vessel.
- Jesus is the source of the living water and the Samaritan woman became the vessel to carry the news of Jesus into the Samaritan town.

God provides everything that we need to execute His plans for our lives. We only have to look closely, to be thankful and to let God use us for His greater glory.

Reflection:

What do you have now that you can share? When God is asking you, do you count the cost and hold back?

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