

**February 14, 2010**

**But Of What Use Are These?**

The account of Jesus feeding the five thousand men (besides women and children) with five loaves and two fishes is recorded for us in all four gospels. John alone mentions the young lad who had the five loaves and two fishes. (Jn.6:9). The Greek word translated "lad" emphasizes this was a little boy. The five barley "loaves" were actually five biscuits (cix). Barley was the food of the poor and animals. And the two fishes were tidbits of pickled fish that added a little taste to the biscuits. A very poor little boy's insignificant lunch!

Never in his wildest dreams would this little boy have expected his small poor man's lunch to be used by Jesus to feed over five thousand people. He was a very poor insignificant "little boy". The Greek word doubly diminishes him. His food, given to him with a mother's deep love, would have been treated with scorn by many in that five thousand. Yet the Lord Jesus took this virtually tasteless meal and brought glory to His Father in heaven. (cf. vs.14).

We are all very poor insignificant sinners. The psalmist asked, "What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him?" (Psa.8:4). You are here today because God took thought of you. You are here today because God cared for you. The grand demonstration of His thought and care for you is His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. (cf. Rom.5:8; 1Jn.4:10).

This God made you a member of His household (Eph.2:19) and a member of Christ's body, the church. (cf. Acts 2:47). And with loving care He gave to you spiritual gifts (abilities) to serve Him in the church for the common good of the church. (1Cor.12). Not only The Reformed Evangelical Church, but the church worldwide.

You think, "I am poor, insignificant, not known, with insignificant ability and resources. What can I do for the common good of this

church and the church worldwide?" The Lord Jesus can take your spiritual gifts and resources of five barley biscuits and two tidbits of pickled fish and "feed" His church here and in as many places as He would choose. Never underestimate what God has prepared with love and given to you and what the Lord Jesus can do with those lovingly prepared and given spiritual gifts and resources.