

AUGUST 15 2021



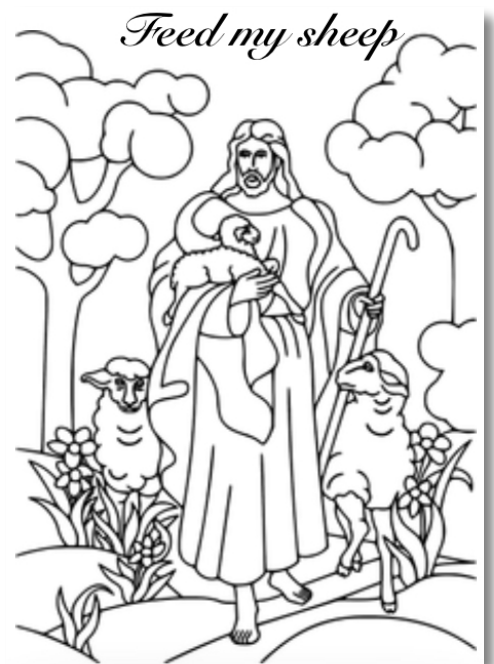
Then the LORD asked him, "What is that in your hand?" "A shepherd's staff," Moses replied. Exodus 4:2 (NLT)

Thought for today...

I can recall occasions when, as a child, I pestered my mum for the latest must-have 'thing' that was being advertised and sold at the time. Whilst knowing that money did not grow on trees, I assumed that it was in abundance, thus enabling mum to purchase any unnecessary item that I craved. Over time, I learnt the valuable lessons that my mum was seeking to teach me concerning finances, and the need to ensure that necessities were a priority. To aid in those teaching moments, when met with further pleas for funds to purchase frivolous things, mum's response would be "I can't give you what I don't have."

As a child, had I been asked to name a resource, money - rather than time, talent or gifting - would have sprung to mind.

There may be times in our lives, when resources are limited. On occasion, we may find ourselves in a position to share a resource that we have, but will choose not to. At other times, there will be moments where we see an opportunity for someone to be blessed, but will look to others to be the conduit, unaware that we are equipped and resourced for the task at hand.



In the sixth Chapter of his Gospel, Mark tells how multitudes followed Jesus so as to hear Him teach. On one occasion, being mindful of their deserted surroundings, the late hour and the crowds hunger, the Disciples suggest to Jesus that He send the people away to the neighbouring village so that they can buy food for themselves. Jesus responds: **“You give them something to eat.”** (Mark 6:37).

Likely, confusion and bewilderment ensued as they wondered how they could possibly afford to feed 5,000 men plus women and children. Taking inventory of what resources were available (5 loaves and 2 fish), Jesus took them, blessed them, broke them, gave them to His Disciples and charged them to feed the multitudes. After the crowds had eaten, 12 basketfuls still remained.

There may be times when, if asked to pray or act on another's behalf, we are ready to point them in the direction of someone else who we believe is better qualified to assist, because they bear a title, are known to be effective in that particular area, or have an established ministry. We fail to recognise that it is the same God who is at work in us all and has given those who follow Him (regardless of title or perceived importance), the power and authority to cast out demons and to cure diseases. (Luke 9:1).

We are blessed in order to be a blessing. What is it that you have? Whatever little you possess, when placed in the Master's hands it can become much. Why not give what you have to Jesus so that He may bless it, break it and through you, feed the expectant and hungry crowd that He has positioned you to serve?



When those around you are full, remember that yet more people can be fed from the basketfuls that remain.