

What Lads Need

Text: John 6:5–14

Introduction

“There is a lad here” (verse 9).

Note the scene and its problems—a needy hungry multitude in a desert, with no easy answers to their dilemma. Note the attempts to find the answers. Philip did not have the answer, but Andrew did. He said, “There is a lad here . . . ”

That’s our hope—not in the Philips, not even in the Andrews themselves, but in what can be done as they bring into the dilemma fresh youth with childlike faith.

Illustration

Our hope is not in the Sauls or in the elder sons of Jesse, but in the young Davids fresh from the sheepfolds and communion with God.

Message

1. There is a lad here who needs a man.

Every boy needs a man in his life.

- a. To bring him to Jesus. Thousands are won to Christ each year through men working with boys programs such as Royal Rangers.
- b. To teach and inspire him. It is reported that Protestantism is losing 50 to 70 percent of its boys between the ages of 12 and 19. This is greatly attributable to a lack of family devotions. Men can inspire and teach boys and keep many of them in the kingdom of God.
- c. To play with him. If it is true that “the family that prays together stays together,” it is also true that “the family that plays together stays together.”

2. There is a lad here who needs a master.

This lad was surely completely mastered by Christ, for he came prepared to stay a long time. He brought his lunch.

- a. Every boy must have a master. He must have something or someone beyond himself and greater than himself to whom he can pledge his allegiance.
- b. Some lads are mastered by Christ. These go on to make a mark for the kingdom of God. They become the great preachers, missionaries, teachers, statesmen, musicians, artists, doctors, and other blessers of mankind.
- c. Some lads are mastered by other powers. These become tyrants, murderers, and leeches upon society.

3. There is a lad here who needs a mission.

If Jesus masters us, we must not stand idle. We must get a mission—a job to do for Christ.

- a. The mission for some lads is in Christian ministry. This boy gave his lunch to feed a starving multitude. Multitudes are starving spiritually right now, and your mission is to feed them the Bread of Life.
- b. The mission for other lads is in the helping professions.
- c. The mission for yet other lads is to earn a livelihood in a legitimate vocation with an avocation of soul winning.

Conclusion

Urge each man in the congregation to seek out a lad with whom he can counsel and pray—to be the **man** in his life and help him find a **Master** and a **mission**.

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