

GLEANING
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There are almost no props for this short skit. This can be used as an introduction to a testimony service. When lights are down, have an actor quickly scatter pieces of stale bread across the platform. As well as pieces of cardboard or paper mache', used to represent discarded pieces of fish. As lights come up, two disciples come on platform from one side, dressed in robes over suits, carrying nearly full baskets. As they move across platform, they pick up the fragments and put them in baskets, cleaning up the area.

Disciple 1: Well, this is the last of it.

Disciple 2: *(Groans, rubs his back)* Yeah, I can't believe he had us do this. Must be another lesson in humility. Clean up garbage from five thousand men and their families.

Disciple 1: Undoubtedly. He said the meek would inherit the earth, Who knew he was talking about crusty bread and dried up fish.

Disciple 2: Well, I tell you. This is about the twelfth baskets of this stuff. Seems like it would've been better to leave this for the birds and animals. *(Pauses thoughtfully)* Wonder why he had us do this?

Disciple 1: I wouldn't question him. You know how he is. Jesus says do it? Hey, we just do it. Maybe he wants to take it with us. So we won't have to worry about food for the next two months. *(Other disciple puts basket down, glares at him)* Hey, relax. This stuff obviously isn't fit to eat.

Disciple 2: *(Picks up basket again)* Still. Can't help but wonder why he had us do this.

By this time, they've pretty well crossed the platform.

Disciple 1: Well, consider this. When this was all lying in the grass, what did we have?

Disciple 2: Scattered garbage

Disciple 1: And when it's all collected in twelve baskets?

Disciple 2: Collected garbage?

Disciple 1: Now look at these baskets full of garbage. And think about the few loaves and fishes they came from.

Disciple 2: *(Thoughtful)* Yeah, when you look at it that way, it's obvious God was involved. No man could do this. No question a miracle happened.

Disciple 1: Probably why he had us gather them up. So we'd know for sure what he did.

Both disciples exit, return immediately dressed in suits for church.

Disciple 2: *(Discouraged)* I don't know, brother. How long we been working in this city? What do we have to show for it? We reach a soul every now and then, but where's the end time revival we were promised? Where are the blessings? The miracles of God?

Disciple 1: Sometimes it is hard to see the magnitude of what God does through our small efforts. Because we're looking too close at the details.

Disciple 2: I don't follow you.

Disciple 1: For example. How many did you win to God, before you gave your life to him?

Disciple 2: Why, none. Obviously.

Disciple 1: Then God only had one to start with in your case. Let's gather up fragments.

Here he turns to side door and calls out name. Say "Robert" for example. Someone who has given their life to God and is willing to give a testimony. Robert comes out on the platform.

Disciple 1: Here's a real crummy person. Before he came to God, his life was garbage. Believed in the philosophy of this world. Lived only for himself. In the process of destroying his home and the lives of his family. With nothing left to live for, Because of you, he gave his life to God. And God gave him back self respect, his wife's love, and the love of his children. Robert, do you love God?

Here Robert thanks God personally and testifies. When he is done....

Disciple 1: Thank you for being a part of this assembly Robert. Have a seat in the basket with the rest of the fragments.

Robert goes out and sits in the audience.

Disciple 1: Have you met Sally? *(Sally comes out)* A real miracle of God. After she made a few bad choices, the world threw her in the garbage. No one thought she was of any use to society. But God made her a worship leader. And she does. Because she has a lot to worship God for. Is that right Sally? *(Here Sally also testifies)* Why don't you go ahead and get in the basket too, Sally?

One by one, six to seven "fragments" are presented as examples of the power of God. To restore lives that would have no use without him. Then, the skit can be concluded several different ways. In one of these, the disciples would continue....

Disciple 2: Enough. I see it now. God forgive my unbelief. The lives. The small and the great. Gathered together, they represent the mighty provision of God for this community. I'll never doubt his power to use our efforts again

Disciple 1: When I really see what God has done, there's no doubt who we serve.

At this point, both would exit the platform as the lights go out. In another type of service, one of the disciples would turn to the members of the congregation and ask if there are any other

fragments out there in the basket that would like to give thanks to God for the changes he has made in their lives. The skit would then end as a testimony service.