



## What God Can Do with 57 Cents

Devotion

<sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and there he sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. <sup>5</sup>Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread so that these people may eat?" <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Two hundred denaril would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. <sup>11</sup>Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" (John 6:3-14)

Jesus took this bit of food and turned it into a lavish gift! How often we do nothing because in **our** wisdom we think it will not be enough. If only we would put it into the hands of Jesus!

As we reflect on this story, let us think about our LWML Mite Boxes and the coins that are dropped in them. These mighty mites can work wonders when pooled together; they can be the seed money to initiate an on-going project of winning souls for Christ.

That thought brings another story to mind – "What God Can Do with 57 Cents." It took place in the 1800s in Philadelphia. A little girl "lived near a small church where the Sunday School was very crowded and he [the pastor] told her that one day they would have buildings big enough to allow everyone to attend who wanted to." Although from a very poor family, the little girl wanted all children to have a place to learn about Jesus. Later, the child died of diphtheria and the pastor was asked to conduct the funeral. The girl's mother gave the pastor a little purse that contained 57 cents, money the girl had been saving to help build a bigger church. Inspired by the girl's determined, sacrificial giving, others grew the fund to enable additional property to be purchased and a building (dedicated to the memory of Hattie May Wiatt, who so sacrificially shared 57 cents) to be built to increase the Sunday school size. In time, a college/university (Temple University) and a hospital (Good Samaritan) were also the results of this initial gift of 57 cents.

(<https://www.truthorfiction.com/hattiemaywiatt/>, accessed 8/28/16)

Oh my! What God can do with 57 cents!

What God can do with five loaves and two fish!

Well – how about an LWML Mite Box full of coins? The first mites were received in 1930 from 92 societies totaling \$6651.31. LWML Mission Grants were established in 1945 and since that time over \$100,000,000 have been contributed to projects that share the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. The mission goal for the 2015-2017 biennium is \$2,000,000.

What God can do with an LWML Mite Box full of coins! May God continue to bless our giving!

**Prayer: We Give Thee But Thine Own**

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| 1. We give Thee but Thine own,<br>Whate'er the gift may be;<br>All that we have is Thine alone,<br>A trust, O Lord, from Thee.                           | 2. May we Thy bounties thus<br>As stewards true receive<br>And gladly, as Thou blesses us,<br>To Thee our first-fruits give! |
| 5. The captive to release,<br>To God the lost to bring,<br>To teach the way of life and peace,<br>It is a Christ-like thing.<br>LSB 781, TLH 441, LW 405 |  |

Lord God, heavenly Father, may we generously promote the work of Your Kingdom through good stewardship and generosity of the many blessings that you have given us. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.



What God Can Do with 57 Cents  
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