

JOKE: Timmy didn't want to put his money in the offering plate Sunday morning, so his mother decided to use some hurried creative reasoning with him.

"You don't want that money, honey," she whispered in his ear. "Quick! Drop it in the plate. It's tainted!"

Horried, the little boy obeyed.

After a few seconds he whispered, "But, mommy, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?"

"Oh, no dear," she replied. "It's not really dirty. It just 'taint yours, and it 'taint mine," she replied. "It's God's."

We started last week looking at some of the miracles that Jesus performed in Scripture. I mentioned that there are at least 36 mentioned that's not all He did, but that was the ones the gospel writers choose to let us know about.

Beyond those I think that the greatest miracles are when God works inside of our heart. Those miracles bring a lot of transformation to our lives. I love the times he heals us, and I for one know that He is still the Great Physician. I love when the Holy Spirit reminds me to forgive someone, when He causes me to think about and repent of something I did or said. Those are life transforming as well as the times that He does a miracle I'd healing or providing when I needed something. He's a good God. He is still at work today, and one of the things I just want to start out saying is that I believe miracles still happen.

We're going to be talking about the miracle of the 5000, where Jesus takes two fish and five loaves of bread, and with that little lunch for a couple people realistically He multiplies it and feeds a bunch of people. Now that is a miracle. And just a little side note. This miracle is the only one that is mentioned in all four of the gospels.

Before we get to the 5000. I think it's important that we look at one Scripture from John to allow you to see the purpose of miracles according to John. We find this in John 20 verses 30 and 31.

John 20:30–31 (NIV) - ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The purpose of miracles is to lead us to believe, trust and find life in Jesus.

Here's the back story. Jesus is speaking and because of the way He spoke, Jesus was like E.F. Hutton when Jesus spoke well everyone listened. And they listened all day. They had been there for hours and when Jesus spoke hours seemed more like minutes. And now it is well pass dinner and so what do we do with all these hungry people?

One of the disciples had an idea.

Mark 6:35–36 (NIV) - ³⁵ By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. ³⁶ Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

Let me paraphrase this a moment. Jesus we are out in the middle of nowhere. There isn't a McDonalds to be found. Not even a Walmart. Tell em all to go back home and get something to eat.

I love Jesus' response

Mark 6:37 (NIV) - ³⁷ But he answered, “**You give them something to eat.**”

It's like fear gripped them again and it was almost in unison.

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

In other words, “We don't have that kind of money in the treasury Jesus. And If we did do You really want us to go and spend that kind of money to feed all these people?”

Mark 6:38 (NIV) - ³⁸ “**How many loaves do you have?**” he asked. “**Go and see.**” When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

Johns gospel mentions that the food came from a boy who happened to plan ahead and had his lunch with him.

I can almost see Jesus looking at the lad and saying check this out. This is going to shock even my followers, but I had this all planned out before we started this day.

Mark 6:39–41 (NIV) - ³⁹ Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.

No matter how much the disciples broke off. It never ran out.

Check out the next verse. . .

Mark 6:42 (NIV) - ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied,

They had all they wanted. It wasn't just a little bite. They ate until they were satisfied.

Jesus had prepared for this. He had seen nothing become something.

Remember Genesis

Genesis 1:2–3 (NIV) - ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Let's get back on track with the 5000. Let me try and share a couple lessons we can pick up from the text.

Now actually the crowd was probably more than 5000. Some of the gospel writers mentioned men, so if you add woman and children it may have been far more than 5000.

So, they all get into groups of fifty or hundred still a lot more people in one group for the loaves and fish that they had. But they get all organized in these groups and the miracle begins.

Let's look again at the first part of verse 37.

Mark 6:37 (NIV) - ³⁷ But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

Which brings me to point 1 of my message. Are you ready for point number Uno?

Point 1 – You need to be obedient to do what God asks of you.

It is not always going to be easy. I can imagine the disciples looking at the crowd. Looking at the food and thinking there is no way this is going to go right. But then I can also imagine there excitement when they get through that first group of 50 and look at what was in there hand and think, wow it looks like I have just as much as I did when I started.

But I also like how this story picks up on three types of people. Which I believe we still see in the Body of Christ today.

There is. . .Phillip

Listen to Phillip in the story. . .

John 6:5–7 (NIV) - ⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

Phillip is like the guy that thinks listen this is impossible. He’s like the pessimist. Looks at the situation and what is available and thinks there is just no way.

Listen church it can be so easy to jump aboard Phillips train if all we look at is the circumstance. We can get depressed, negative, and begin to think that this thing we are going through is even too hard for God.

Then there are the Andrews . . .

John 6:8–9 (NIV) - ⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

Andrew is the type of guy that thinks well we have something, but I'm not really sure what you can do with it.

It's like many in the Body of Christ as well. I don't have much to offer. Not sure what you can use my gift for. It isn't much, but maybe God can do something with it.

Then there is the boy. . .

He's the one that says all that I have I give. I'm going all in. It may not be much, but I believe you can do much with what I have. So here it is, take it all.

There are times that God just wants you to let go of what you hold onto so tightly. Now that can be different things for different people. But there are times when God will ask you to give up what you're clinging to. Sometimes it's because He wants to use it for the miraculous. Moses what's that in your hand? A rod. Throw it down. You know the story.

Sometimes God asks us to let things go because they have a hold of us.

Here's the thing church God desires to partner with His children. Looking at our story what if the young lad said, "wait a minute Jesus, momma packed me this lunch so I could hang out and listen to you and have something to eat during the day. I planned for this, those other 4999 well they should have thought about that too.

Now if that was the way the boy thought, do you think Jesus had a plan B to feed the crowd. I think He could have figured something out. After all he is the creator of the fish. But I think this story shows us just how much God looks forward to partnering with us.

We need to search out the Lord and ask Him, what is it in my life that you've given me to give back in some capacity? God has given each of us something of value for His kingdom to share.

Acts 3:1–6 (NIV) - One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ²Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”

Now I love that story and it fits into what I'm trying to share. God has given us gifts not to hoard, but to use to show Jesus glorified.

And church I believe that if we're hoarding what God's given, that shows God that we're putting something else above him, and that would make that thing an idol.

So, ask the Lord, how can I use what we've been given me to show the love of Christ to somebody this week?

Another point I want you to see and this is probably more to receive the miracle you need and that is to just sit in His presence.

John 6:10 (NIV) - ¹⁰Jesus said, “**Have the people sit down.**” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there).

Jesus asked them to just sit down. Mary sat in His presence, while Martha concerned herself with things.

Sometimes when there's circumstances that are super overwhelming, we tense up, we get stressed, we think about all

the negatives. We kind of get like Andrew and we go, okay, there is no way out. I've tried everything. This is going to be bad.

I think God just wants us in those moments, just go trust Him, rest, relax, just breathe.

Truth is church more often than not when I try to play God and think I can do this I just make things worse.

We really do need to learn to cast all our cares on Him.

Matthew 11:28–30 (NIV) - ²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Listen I know it's not always easy.

But today do you find yourself like a Phillip always thinking that to do that, to tell someone about Jesus, to pray for someone, to you fill in the blank.

To do something like that for Jesus seems impossible.

Maybe you find yourself more like aa Andrew where all you see is the crowd and you wonder how such a small amount of fish and bread is going to do any good? Maybe you think share my testimony, what good is my testimony? Who will listen? Who will benefit?

My prayer today is that each one of you will be like the little boy who willing says all I have is yours, whatever you ask of me here I am. It doesn't look like much, but I know you can multiply it and use it.

Now I love the way this story ends.. .check this out.

Mark 6:43–44 (NIV): 43 and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. 44 The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.