

Matthew 13:53-14:21

Jesus Can Do a Lot with a Little

⁵³ Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there.

⁵⁴ When He had come **to His own country**, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were **astonished** and said, "Where did this *Man* get this wisdom and *these* mighty works? ⁵⁵ **Is this not the carpenter's son?** Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶ And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this *Man* get all these things?" ⁵⁷ **So they were offended at Him.**

The idea being – they couldn't receive from him because they couldn't get past who he was.

A) Again drawing our attention to the fact that Jesus was so ordinary in his early life.

B) Didn't really stand out – So the people of Nazareth are like – this cannot be the MESSIAH – NO WAY

But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."

C) SAME thing happens to you – friends and family one of two reactions –

1) God is real – AMAZING CHANGE

D) OR – We are not buying this – we know him!

Aaron when he was young – goofy kid.

A) Creative but different

B) High School – Long hair – like Chewbaka

C) When he started ministering here – there were quite a few people that couldn't take him seriously

D) Funny – **I had Pastor friends who would meet Aaron- see his heart – gifts – want to hire him /**

1) Saw His Potential - Yet - People here – who knew him his whole life were still trying to figure him out

E) **Now most people here appreciate him.**

1) But this is what Jesus is saying – Sometimes it is

the hardest in your HOME COMMUNITY

The last verse of chapter 13 is sobering

⁵⁸ Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

A) Unbelief hinders the work of God in a life – in a church

B) The flip side of that is what God can do with a little bit of faith

C) See that in Chapter 14

Chapters 14–20 have been called "The Withdrawal of the King."

A) During the period of time recorded by Matthew in these chapters, Jesus often withdrew from the crowds and spent time alone with His disciples.

B) There were several reasons for these withdrawals: the growing hostility of His enemies, the need for physical rest,

1) and the need to prepare His disciples for His future death on the cross.

C) That being said these periods of withdrawals, were not periods of inactivity.

D) Because the crowds would often follow Jesus - He would unselfishly minister to their needs in spite of His own need for rest and solitude.

1) We see an example of that in our text tonight.

14 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him."

A) The Herod family looms large in the four Gospels and the Book of Acts, and it is easy to confuse the various rulers.

B) Herod the Great founded the dynasty and ruled from 37 B.C. to 4 B.C.

C) He was not a true Jew by birth, but was an Edomite, a descendant of Esau.

D) "He was ... a heathen in practice, and a monster in character"

1) He had nine wives and he thought nothing of slaying his own sons or wives if they got in the way of his plans.

E) Despite his Deviant in character – He was a master Builder –

1) The remains of his building projects are all over Israel to this day.

Herod Antipas, the Herod of this chapter, was a son of Herod the Great.

A) His title was “tetrarch,” which means “ruler over the fourth part of the kingdom.”

B) He ruled from 4 B.C. to A.D. 39, and his rule was deceptive and selfish.

1) He loved luxury and was very ambitious to become a great ruler.

Next you have Herod Agrippa – the Herod who imprisoned Peter and killed James (Acts 12).

A) He was a grandson of Herod the Great.

B) After him was Herod Agrippa II was the Herod who tried Paul (Acts 25:13ff). He was a son of Agrippa I.

C) All of the Herods had Edomite blood in them, and, like their ancestor Esau, they were hostile to the Jews

D) They practiced the Jewish religion when it helped fulfill their plans for gaining more power and wealth.

So Herod Antipas is the Herod in charge at this time in the ministry of Jesus

A) When he hears about the ministry of Jesus He thinks it is John the Baptist come back from the dead.

B) He was the one who had John the Baptist Killed.

C) Matthew gives us the details of that event in the following verses:

V. 3 For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife. 4 Because John had said to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” 5 And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

6 But when Herod’s birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. 7 Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask.

8 So she, **having been prompted by her mother**, said, “Give me John the Baptist’s head here on a platter.”

9 And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because **of those who sat with him**, he commanded it to be given to her. 10 So he sent and had John beheaded in prison. 11 And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. 12 Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and **told Jesus.**

So Herod grew tired of his wife and took a liking to his brothers wife.

A) So he divorced his wife and started shaking up with his brothers wife.

B) Sounds like a modern day soap opera – but this wasn’t fiction.

C) John the Baptist: Fiery preacher down in the Jordan – felt compelled to call HEROD out publically.

1) Poor example of a leader –

Well Herod didn’t take too kindly to the public Criticism and had John arrested and put in prison.

A) John was put in the fortress of Machaerus, located about four miles east of the Dead Sea.

B) It stood 3,500 feet above sea level on a rocky ridge that was accessible from only one side.

C) If Herod didn’t like John the Baptist – His new wife Herodias hated him even more.

1) It was really because of her – that he put John in Prison

Herodias’ hatred for John ran deep – and she wanted him dead.

A) Herod was afraid to kill John because of the multitudes – John’s popularity / Herod lose his....

B) On Herod’s birthday she saw her opportunity to devise a plan to get rid of John and silence the prophet – once and for all.

C) Birthday celebration was well under way and the wine was flowing.

1) Herod and the boys were getting wasted.

D) Herodias had a teenage daughter 15-17 yrs old from her previous marriage –

1) She sent her in to do a sensual Dance.

This was unusual – because such dances were usually performed by servant girls – never by a princess.

A) Herod was so impressed by the dance – he offered quite a prize: Ask anything and I will give you up to half of my kingdom.

B) Salome – prompted by her mother: said – ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter.

C) Herod gave in and John was brutally beheaded!

D) As we turn to v.13 the news of John's death has made its way to Jesus – we see his reaction

13 When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself.

A) Doesn't this bless you – Jesus hears this tragedy – he wants to be alone.

B) He wants to pray and reflect – Sometimes we just need to withdraw from people.

1) Our own heart care – our own Sanity

C) Just need to be quiet before the Lord.

Now Mark and Luke's gospel accounts – tell us that Jesus was taking the disciples away with him at this time

A) But Matthew lets us know that his aim was to be alone.

B) The problem is the multitudes are not going to allow this little retreat to happen

v.13b But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. 14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

C) This amazes me and convicts me/ at the same time:

1) I have had many moments in ministry where after a long week of ministry – or even a long day – I don't want to see another person.

D) I just feel physically, emotionally and spiritually drained. – retreat

Then I get the call – and my first reaction is not compassion – it is frustration.

A) Now I eventually get around to compassion – but that is not my first reaction.

B) Jesus never seems to be that way: He sees the crowd and is immediately moved with compassion

1) The phrase translated “moved with compassion” literally means “to have one's inner being stirred.”

C) It is stronger than sympathy. It is when you are moved to the point of needing to do something.

1) Have to ACT – can't walk by or drive by that situation another day.

The word is used twelve times in the Gospels, and eight of these references are to Jesus Christ. Here are a few

A) (Matt. 9:36). Jesus was “moved with compassion” when He saw the needy multitudes. They were like sheep without a Shepherd.

B) In other words they were needy – in danger – of being eaten alive by their enemies –

1) They needed to be cared for. Jesus was stirred to the point of wanting to do something.

C) The two blind men (Matt. 20:34) and the leper (Mark 1:41) also stirred His compassion,

1) as did the sorrow of the widow at Nain (Luke 7:13).

When the disciples saw this crowd they were a nuisance, an interruption – IN THE WAY

A) Jesus saw them differently IN NEED – SHEEP W/OUT A SHEPHERD - COMPASSION

B) You know that is how Jesus sees people today

C) Sometimes God gets pictured as being this angry guy – Down on everyone / every thing.

1) Because that is how his church portrays Him – Christians so ANGRY!

D) Aaron Frazee - I am repulsed by their comments

Receive people like you would a little child!

A) Care and tenderness – handling a Baby

B) God's heart is so BIG!!!

C) BIG NEED FOR A BIG HEART – HE IS A BIG GOD!!!

D) So Matthew tells us he healed their Sick – Mark and Luke tell us that He taught them.

1) Even though he was physically and emotionally drained – He ministers to the multitude

15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."

So here we see that it was getting late the disciples were being Practical

A) The nearest In and Out Burger stand was miles away in the nearby town – Let's wrap this up .

16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. **You give them something to eat.**"

B) Jesus asks His Disciples to DO the Impossible

C) Jesus asks his disciples to do something that they didn't have the sufficient means to do.

1) They didn't have the resources to pull this off

D) This is so important to NOTE: because He does the same thing with us

1) Constantly calls

QUOTE: When God is going to do something wonderful He begins with a difficulty... when He's going to do something very wonderful, he begins with an impossibility!"

E) So don't freak out when the big impossibility comes – Jesus is getting ready to do a miracle

This is also intriguing to me- Big debate today in the Church over – SOCIAL GOSPEL.

A) Feed the poor – take care of the Physical needs of people. –

B) You don't need to be so concerned about sharing the gospel.

1) Share and if necessary use words.

C) Jesus did both – He taught the word – but he also took care of their physical needs.

D) I THINK WHENEVER POSSIBLE – WE NEED TO DO BOTH!

1) BUY the homeless guy a burger and tell him about Jesus!

Jesus says – YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT! 17 And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

A) The Disciples do what we so often do – I don't have the means to do that

B) I don't have the gifts to help in that area.

1) I don't have it within myself to meet that need.

C) I could never do – (I do that – don't you?)

Listen Five loaves and two fish – Not sufficient for such a Crowd –

A) But in the hands of Jesus – More than enough.

B) Jesus is able to take the Little bit that they had and Multiply it –

The mathematics of a miracle: 5 loaves + 2 fish = not enough / but 5 loaves + 2 fish + Jesus Christ = MORE THAN ENOUGH

B) Jesus is able to take the Little bit that they had and Multiply it – Does the same with us

1) **Its like that all through the Bible.**

C) Dust is insignificant.... But in the hands of the Creator it became man

D) The Jawbone of donkey is INSIGNIFICANT... INSUFFICIENT to fight a battle with....

1) In God's hands - Samson killed 1000 enemies

Gideon and his army of 300 is no match for an army that looks like sand on the beach in number **BUT IN GOD'S HANDS – MORE THAN ENOUGH**

E) A sling and 5 smooth stones in the hands of a teenager with a sling is **INSUFFICIENT for battle**

In God's strength David killed the great giant, Goliath

The Problem with these disciples is they underestimated their wealth

A) They thought that all they had was 5 loaves and two small fish /- what was wrong with that.

B) They had been with Jesus long enough now!

1) Turn water into wine / Heal man at the pool of Bethesda – Power over demons and Disease

C) But these disciples had a defective view of Jesus – that was their problem

1) Often times it is our problem as well.

D) We underestimate our wealth by forgetting who is with us.

Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

E) What Impossibility are you facing personally today!

1) The question remains – Am I going to dwell on the Impossibility or His Omnipotent Power & Ability?

WITHOUT Him - nothing. WITH Him - anything

See here is what this story teaches us – Jesus is able to do a lot with a little when it is given to Him

A) Big needs: Refugees and Muslims

B) A friend of mine: Friends together and they adopted a Muslim family

1) Diapers/ food/ a Van

C) Now they are coming to Church

11% of kids in the Vista School system are Homeless

A) Over 2400 kids – Big need - what can we do

B) Food and backpacks – One school – two schools

C) Do what you can –

What do you have to give to the Lord

A) Time – give time – resources give that

B) Jesus takes our little and does a lot with it

C) Our Church – not Huge: 31 Churches planted 32 this Fall – Life going out

D) Here is our little – take it and use it

The 2nd thing this story teaches us is that in order to be a part of His plan we have to step out in faith

A) We have to be obedient in stepping out in faith

18 He said, "Bring them here to Me." 19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. 20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. 21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

B) NOTE: Jesus could've pulled this miracle off w/o any of this.

Bb) He could have lifted His hands and commanded manna to come down.

He could have instantly created a loaf of bread in everyone's pocket

C) Instead He shows His desire to work through the insignificance of others to get His work done.

Picture this scene – Jesus says – have everyone sit down. Ok – He prays

A) Starts breaking the Bread and the Sardines and gives it to the disciples – start passing out.

B) Think about this – he places a ½ a loaf of bread and ½ a little fish in your hand and says go

1) If it is me – I am thinking YEA RIGHT – what am I supposed to do with this?

C) The disciples in faith had to obey and pass this out believing that it was not going to run out.

Application:

Start with what you have.

Give what you have to Jesus

Obey what He commands. .

Watch Jesus take your little and do a whole lot with it!