

Mark 6:30-44 Miraculous Meal

Today we are looking at a miracle that Jesus performed that was so incredible and important it is recorded in all four gospels.

A) In fact aside from the Resurrection of Jesus Christ it is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels

B) The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 –

1) Whenever the Bible repeats something it is important. Repeated four times means it is extra important –

C) A little boy was asked what his favorite Bible story was. He said, "I like the one where everyone loaves and fishes."

D) That is not exactly what happened with the Feeding of the Five Thousand, but it is a great story.

1) It is a story that has profound spiritual implications for every believer.

Mark 6 is our text and we are picking it up in V.30 V.30-32

30 Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. 31 And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. 32 So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.

There are Two important events – frame the setting of the Miracle

A) The Chapter begins with the disciples being sent out on a missionary journey –

B) Authority given by Jesus to preach – and to heal and to cast out demons.

1) Not sure how long they were gone but they returned no doubt pumped by the results of this experience.

C) But there is also a Sadness – The other event that framed the setting of this story

D) The news had spread of the fate of John the Baptist – text last week

1) Jesus' cousin – It hit Jesus hard – Matthew's gospel tells us that when Jesus heard the news – He wanted to get away by Himself.

E) Disciples are back – so He is taking them with Him

Emotional Day: Those of you who have lost a loved one – those of you who have gone through tragedy – Sometimes you just want to be alone.

J Courson: If we don't come apart we will fall apart. Retreat times are important

So Jesus is trying to get away with the boys – **He knows that is what they all need** – but sometimes – circumstances just don't allow that to happen.

33 But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him. 34 And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd.

So Jesus is trying to get away with his boys – a little alone time – R&R – rest – rejuvenate.

A) Crossing the Sea of Galilee – really a large lake
This point where crossing was a few miles across

B) Along the **shore line were villages** – Well, people start running around the lake –
1) With each village, the crowd grows

C) We will learn that there ends up being 5,000 men in this multitude – women & kids – 10,000-15,000 pp

D) Response: **V. 34 We read that Jesus lifted up His eyes & was bummed that the crowd wouldn't leave Him alone.**

E)) No, He lifted up His eyes – **moved with Compassion**: Saw them like Sheep not having a Shepherd –

#1 Jesus sees the crowd as being like sheep without a shepherd.

It is interesting that of all the animals God made, the one that he compares us to the most are sheep!

A) One of the reasons is that sheep need a shepherd

B) Sheep need to be led and cared for

C) Sheep are dumb – they are followers – one sheep cliff, the rest will follow

1) Now I understand why my kid dress like that

D) Sheep will wander from one area to the next looking for food. Looking to be fed

1) People are that way too! – Void –

E) Like Dumb Sheep, let's see – **is this going to fill it**

Jesus looks on this crowd moved with compassion

A) Moved is the idea – **He felt it in his gut** – His insides ached as he looked at the Crowd.

B) Jesus looks on **THAT CROWD OUT THERE** – He is Moved with **COMPASSION** –

1) Jesus never rests from His love for His compassion

C) the Bible says there's a day coming when He will rest **in His love** but he never rest **from** His love and compassion.

D)Wayward sheep here today – that is His heart toward you – **“Johnny when stop wandering.”**

THEY NEEDED A SHEPHERD - So He began to teach them many things. Pause – {what is the answer wandering sheep – THE WORD}

A)Luke’s gospel tells us He taught them about the Kingdom- **the kingdom of God.**

B)**Eternity in their hearts** – longing for Him

C) There is a built in sense put there by God in the heart of every human being –

1)**There is more TO LIFE than this!** Why 82% of Americans believe in the afterlife

Not only is there this built in longing in the heart of man for eternity

A)There is also a built in longing to want to be a part of something greater than ourselves.

B)That is what His kingdom is about

C)Some of you are here today- Sheep without a shepherd – Jesus wants to be your shepherd

D)Redeemed you to be a part of something bigger than yourself

1)**You enter into that relationship with Him -** you discover this is why I was made, this is why I am here.

So Jesus is teaching the multitude and time just begins to pass by.

35 When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. 36 Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat."

As the day wears on the Disciples start thinking practically – that would be me!

A)They were probably getting hungry – thinking – what are we going to do with these people.

B)A few weeks ago – I preached a message called Life’s intersections – Our life intersects - Jairus

C)After the **Saturday night service** – Denise and I are walking to the car – almost everyone is gone

1)A few guys locking up – Long day for me – Sat. is a work day – 7am –now 8:00pm –tired and hungry

We are walking to the car – over here – Couple is walking across the parking lot

A)Nod – thinking probably cutting through the property – I nod – she is a few months pregnant

B)Getting in our Car – Walking back by – said nothing – Just preached life’s intersections

C)Start to drive off – notice – **Standing at 7'11** – Denise says -I think we need to go back – Really?

1)I know she is right – **But I am hungry and tired Don't go back -**

D)Turn around – Homeless – shelters – Hotel

1)Phone # call church in the Am Van pick you up and see what we can do

E)2nd service – Give the invitation – here they come Fernando and Wendy – two of about 20 pp

1)Saved – excited – spend the next two days Steve and Dave – Fernando = work –bus ticket to Georgia

Almost missed that – because I was hungry and tired

A)So I understand the disciples – A few of you are thinking – he is not a very good Pastor – ok

B)Many of you are thinking – he is just like me

1)That is the point!

C)So the disciples say: Lord it is late – send the multitude away!

D)Notice Jesus' response: I picture this with a big smile on His face.

37 But He answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat."

E)Natural response: **They pull out their wallets – add up their combined income- a little sarcasm v.37b**

And they said to Him,"Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?"

F)Lord you can't be serious – this is all we've got – Judas – I thought we had more than that!

Many of us can be the same way.

A)One of our biggest problems can be our own Knowledge and reasoning.

B)Car Breaks – Your wife suggests – Honey let's pray

You cannot be serious –

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!"**

38 So He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out {They go searching in the crowd}

A)John's gospel tells us they brought to him a little boy who had ,**"Five, and two fish."**

B)Nameless little boy: We don't know a lot about this little boy – don't even know his name

C)John tells us he had with him **Barley loaves** – which could indicate he was poor –

1) **Smallest and cheapest of the bread** and the word for fish here is like Sardines

D) Thank God it was a kid who had the five loaves and two fish. Kids will share.

Another unnamed hero in this story is the MOM WHO PACKED HIS LUNCH!

A) Mom- As he was rushing out the door – “**where are you going?**”/ crowds are following that Jesus guy.

B) Did you -Brush your teeth – did you do your chores –

1) **here take a lunch – 5 loaves and two fish!**

C) That little boy – gives the little that He had to Jesus

39 Then He commanded them {the disciples} to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties.

A) How long did that take. “But my friends are sitting over there.”

B) Why are we sitting down – **are we going to eat?** make rows that they could walk thru

C) Disciples are thinking – glad he is having them sit down **at least we can get a running start** if this doesn't turn out so well.

Truth be told – He is having them sit down and they have no idea what He is going to do!

A) They haven't read the story – We have five loaves and two sardines – that is nothing

B) As they are arranging the crowds in groups they are no doubt thinking – this is a lot of pp?

C) It is similar to the children of Israel marching around Jericho everyday –

1) Man those walls are Huge!

But there is something beautiful here – They may not have the faith but they have the obedience.

A) 2nd thing we want to note is sometimes when our faith is lacking the best thing we can do is obey!

B) The disciples don't know what Jesus is about to do!

1) No real indication they **had any faith** for what he was about to do.

C) But **enough obedience to SET THE STAGE** – for it to happen.

How many times in the Bible does God work through obedience even when there is a little faith.

A) Noah – Build a boat? But there is no water!

B) What is marching around these walls of Jericho all this time going to do anyway?

C) Step into the Jordan while holding the ark ?
Serious – it is heavy – we will drown – Ok

How often do we see something that God says in His word- that we wrestle with?

A) If I do that I will never find a husband, if I do that I will never find a wife?

Aa) If I trust Him with that – I will never get a raise.

B) If I know it is wrong – but if I don't do that I will never get the promotion.

C) If I give this – we will never make ends meet!

D) Think about how many situations that God puts us in where we measure our resources, or abilities, and realize – We are lacking!

E)) And the logic of His word doesn't make sense to us but the Lord is saying to us – **Just obey.**

Understand something: Jesus is always thinking about more than the immediate need.

A) He knows there is a bigger picture to follow

B) Jesus knows in the book of Acts that there will be many circumstances that His disciples will face where their provision is going to be lacking.

C) There will be many scenarios they will face where their means will not be sufficient.

1) There is going to be times where things are not going to add up on paper.

He knows Peter is one day going to show up at the temple gate – Beggar – alms

A) Peter will say “Silver and gold – I don't have but what I do have I give to you – in the name.....

B) Jesus knows that some of you would be sitting here today facing situations that are beyond you.

C) The answer is the same – Bring what you have to Me!

D) Be obedient in what I am asking you to do.

E) So they obeyed – got everyone seated – and then it was like – Ok – what now Lord.

41 And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all. 42 So they all ate and were filled. 43 And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. 44 Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.

A) Happens next - Jesus said Grace

B)) Different from us – **He was not asking God to bless the food** – {Not a bad idea in our day – preservatives}

C) Jesus was **blessing the Provider** – Thank you Father for this food you have provided.

1) Disciples raise an eye – (REALLY?)

D) **John - Grass** – Mark v.39 **nice and green** – “Father provided the perfect spot for a picnic”

E) The Disciples start passing out the food –

3rd thing we see here is that Jesus is able to do A LOT with A LITTLE!

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

B) Always need to factor Jesus into the equation.

C) Jesus took this little boy’s lunch and did more with it than anyone could have ever imagined.

In the same way, God wants us to bring what we have to the table

A) **Realizing It is not what you bring. It is to whom you are bringing it to.**

B) Jesus can do a lot with a little.

C) 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.

4th thing this story reminds us of is that we are distributors not manufactures

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.

1) 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.

But there is something here I do not want you to miss

A)when it says here that He broke the loaves – Mark uses the aorist tense – which means it was a single act He did that once – Never repeated

B)But then Mark uses the imperfect tense when it says and He gave it to His disciples –

1) imperfect tense Literal means - **He kept on giving it to them.**

C)In other words, the miracle took place in our Lord's hands.

1)He broke it once

D)He gave it continually – they would run out – look back – little hand wave – come back – there is more

E)Picture the Disciples passing each other in the crowd

1)This is AWESOME –CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS

Implication for us is Huge – If the needs in our lives our communities are ever going to be met

A)It will only happen as we continue day by day / hour by hour / moment by moment – receive from the hand of Jesus

B)The supply is in Him – Not us – We must remember that. He is the manufacturer

1)We must keep coming to Him

C)The moment we get comfortable and start thinking we don't need to ALWAYS go to Him

1)We are in trouble – We will soon run out of the supply. Dry as can Be

V. 42 They all ate until they were filled! Glutted you know what that is right?

A)That is thanksgiving day – Right?

B)That is when you are so full that you can't breathe Right? –

1)Don't look at me like you have no idea...talking about

C)This is when you are at a restaurant – we all have our Favs – sometimes it is not the quality but the quantity

D)The meal is over and you are loosening your belt underneath the table –so you can breathe

1)Thinking I wish I was home – sweat pants

E)So full you feel like you are going to die

1)Waitress comes and says – “**would you like to see the dessert menu** – “I'll die – take one for the team”

That is glutted – that is how much food Jesus produced

A)Enough for the big guy in the group to say –I will have 10 more of those fishes

B)Then after the crowd is eaten until their hearts content – leaning back – siesta – so good .

43 And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. 44 Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.

Jesus tells the disciples to go and gather up the extra

A)Fragments – not talking – what was only partially eaten – bread with teeth marks

B)The idea is what was not touched – and they gathered up 12 baskets full-

C)One for each disciple.

What was that like when they gathered all that up and came and sat down with Jesus

A)What was the look on Jesus face? Smile pretty Cool Uh ?

B)What was the look on their face? Were they more enamored with Him than the food?

C)What was that Like? I will tell you what it was like!

LIKE SOMETHING THAT NEEDED TO GET INTO ALL FOUR GOSPELS

SOMETHING THAT NEEDED TO BE IN THEIR MINDS AS MUCH AS THE RESURRECTION !

And everyone of them is sitting there thinking –

A)I am so glad he didn't listen to us and send the multitude away.

B)So glad he didn't listen to us when we said the hour was late

Do you think that they would have rather been one of the gluttons

A)or a **weary and tired disciple** looking at their Lord completely at rest in their hearts

B)Bodies worn out but their hearts rested

What about your situation:

A)You are a mom – everyday you wake up to an endless pile of wash.

B)Socks disappear – “Not my fault- the Bermuda Triangle is in my washing machine.”

1)You get blamed

C)Raising these kids – Jesus says bring that to me!

D)A mom packed a lunch –and a little boy changed the world that day!

He went home – Mom you will not believe what happened – tells the story

A)Now Billy I told you not to make up stories – what really happened to your lunch

B)Billy is like – Lord you have got to come home with me –My mom will never believe this

C)What did she think when she heard the story circulating of this incredible miracle

Listen Moms – being faithful – bring your kids to Jesus in Prayer – teach the word – bring them to youth group

A)Are you raising the next Billy Graham, the next Greg Laurie – the next Phil McKay –

Bb)Are you raising a kid who is going to carry the torch for Jesus in their church – next generation should the Lord tarry

C)Bring it to Me –

D)All I have is a Jawbone of a donkey –

1)Sling and some stones

2)Shepherds staff

Lord I am just a mechanic

Bring what you have to Him

A)You are not a Manufacturer – You are not a Provider

B)You are a distributor – give it to Him and see what He does with it.

C)When the end comes – who do you want to be?

1)One of the pp in the crowd who was filled – or one who took the little that you had and gave it to Him

D)With faith and obedience watched Him do a great work

Starts with making Him your shepherd

Walking in obedience

Today – Give your Heart to Christ