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Matthew 14 (ESV)

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

2

Matthew 14 (ESV)

17 They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." 18 And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children."

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Big Idea

What is possible when we take the little bit in our hands and trust it all with Jesus?

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Jesus Leads With Compassion

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Jesus Leads With Compassion

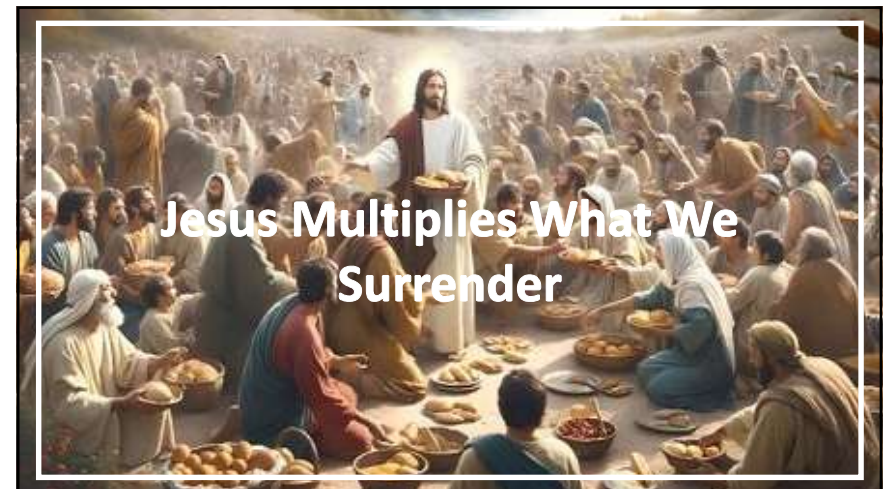
- Jesus sees people's needs before they ask & His heart moves toward them, not away.
- Jesus withdrew to mourn John the Baptist - Even Jesus took time to grieve, showing that sadness is not weakness but humanity.
- The crowd followed Him anyway & He welcomed them ("People don't check your calendar.")
- Yet Jesus still turned toward them - He felt *spagchnizomai* - a deep, gut-level heartbreak for people.

6

Jesus Leads With Compassion

- Jesus saw them as "sheep without a shepherd".
34 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. (Mark 6:34 ESV)
- His compassion comes from seeing people weighed down, confused & hurting.
- He healed their sick because He did what He could do.

7



Jesus Multiplies What We Surrender

8

Jesus Multiplies What We Surrender

- Miracles begin not with abundance, but with willingness.
- The disciples saw a problem; Jesus saw a test.

5 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?" 6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. (John 6:5-6 ESV)

9

Jesus Multiplies What We Surrender

- A boy offered five loaves & two fish - small, but surrendered ("It's not much, but it's something... and Jesus can work with that.")

9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" (John 6:9 ESV)

- Jesus blessed the offering before multiplying it ("He takes your natural & puts some super on top of it.")

10

Jesus Multiplies What We Surrender

- The miracle happened in the disciples' hands ("Technically, Jesus didn't feed the 5,000- the disciples did." The miracle happened in their hands.")
- There were twelve baskets left over - God's abundance always exceeds need.

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Jesus Invites Us Into the Impossible

- God doesn't need our help, but He chooses to work through us. ("Be careful when you say, 'The church ought to...' God may be calling YOU.")
- God often uses ordinary people with ordinary resource.
27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (1 Corinthians 1:27ESV)

13

Jesus Invites Us Into the Impossible

- Obedience often feels risky or foolish at first ("When's the last time God asked you to do something where, if He didn't come through, you'd look like a fool?")
- Miracles unfold step by step as we obey - The disciples handed out bread one person at a time & the supply never ran out.

14

Jesus Invites Us Into the Impossible

- God's power is revealed when we release what we're holding ("As long as your fists are clenched, your hands can't receive God's blessing.")
24 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, (Psalm 24:1 ESV)

15

Practical Applications

- Offer Jesus the "little bit" you have today - a prayer, a smile, a listening ear.
- Let compassion lead your interactions with neighbors & staff.
- Trust Jesus with your limitations.
- Share your stories of God's faithfulness - Your testimony is "loaves and fish" that feed others spiritually.

16

Practical Applications

- Pray for God to multiply your influence - Your prayers can reach around the world.
- Release worries, regrets, or fears into Jesus' hands - What you surrender, He transforms.

17

Discussion Questions

- What "little bit" do you feel you still have to offer Jesus?
- When have you seen God take something small & make it meaningful?
- Why do you think Jesus asked the disciples to feed the crowd?
- How does Jesus' compassion toward the crowd encourage you personally?
- What might Jesus be inviting you to trust Him with right now?

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