

The Jefferson Spirit

Sundays at 9:00AM

Pastor Mark Jarema

March 09, 2025



"More Than Enough"

Mark 6:30-44 recounts one of Jesus' most well-known miracles—the feeding of the five thousand. After a long day of teaching and healing, Jesus sees a large crowd gathered, hungry for both His words and physical nourishment. With only five loaves and two fish, He blesses the food, multiplies it, and provides more than enough for everyone. This passage reveals Jesus' deep compassion, His power to provide, and the truth that in His hands, even the smallest offering can become abundant.

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:30-44 (NIV)

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³ But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

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.”

³⁷ But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

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

³⁸ “How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

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. ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied, 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.

Here are some interesting facts about Mark 6:30-44 and the feeding of the five thousand:

- The Only Miracle in All Four Gospels – The feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, emphasizing its significance.
- The Crowd Was Likely Larger – The passage states five thousand men were present, but when women and children are included, the actual number could have been 10,000 to 20,000 people.
- A Young Boy Provided the Food – According to John 6:9, a little boy had the five loaves and two fish. This shows that God can use even the smallest offering for great purposes.
- Jesus Tested the Disciples’ Faith – In John’s account, Jesus asks Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” (John 6:5). But He already knew what He was going to do, testing their faith in His provision.
- Five Loaves and Two Fish Have Symbolic Meaning – The number five can symbolize God’s grace, while two can represent witness or partnership. Together, they remind us that God’s provision is abundant and for all.



- Jesus Gave Thanks Before Multiplying the Food – Before distributing the food, Jesus looked up to heaven and gave thanks (Mark 6:41), demonstrating an attitude of gratitude and trust in God’s provision.
- There Were 12 Baskets of Leftovers – The twelve baskets of remaining food could symbolize the twelve disciples, showing that Jesus provides not just enough, but abundantly more.
- The People Sat in Groups – Jesus had the people sit in groups of hundreds and fifties (Mark 6:40), resembling the orderly organization of Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 18:25).
- The Miracle Points to Jesus as the Bread of Life – In John 6:35, after this miracle, Jesus declares, “I am the bread of life.” This miracle foreshadows how He will spiritually nourish all who believe in Him.
- A Lesson in Trusting God’s Provision – The disciples saw only what they lacked, but Jesus saw the potential of what was given to Him. This teaches us that when we offer what little we have, God can multiply it beyond what we imagine.

The feeding of the five thousand in Mark 6:30-44 has several ties to the Old Testament, connecting Jesus' miracle to God's provision and foreshadowing His greater mission. Here are some key connections:

1. Manna in the Wilderness (Exodus 16)

Just as God provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness, Jesus provides food for the hungry crowd.

Both events highlight God’s supernatural provision for His people when they had no food.

In John 6:32-35, Jesus directly links this miracle to manna, declaring, “I am the bread of life.”

2. Elisha’s Multiplication of Bread (2 Kings 4:42-44)

The prophet Elisha fed 100 men with twenty loaves of barley, and there was food left over, just as Jesus fed thousands with five loaves and two fish.

Elisha’s servant doubted there would be enough food, just like the disciples doubted in Mark 6.

The miracle in 2 Kings 4:43 ends with, “They ate and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.” This foreshadows Jesus’ greater miracle.

3. The Shepherd Imagery (Psalm 23 & Ezekiel 34)

Mark 6:34 says Jesus had compassion because the people were “like sheep without a shepherd.”

Psalm 23:1-2: “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.” – Jesus literally makes the people sit down on the green grass (Mark 6:39).

Ezekiel 34:11-16: God promises to shepherd His people, feed them, and care for them, just as Jesus does in this miracle.

4. The Messianic Banquet (Isaiah 25:6-9)

Isaiah 25:6 speaks of a future heavenly banquet prepared by the Lord for all nations.

Jesus’ feeding of the crowd is a foretaste of the abundant feast in the Kingdom of God.

This idea is reinforced in the Last Supper and future Wedding Feast of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9).



5. Moses as a Leader Providing for the People

Like Moses, who led Israel and mediated God's provision, Jesus leads, teaches, and feeds the people. Deuteronomy 18:15 foretells that a prophet like Moses will come—Jesus fulfills this role by providing miraculous food, just as Moses did with manna.

6. God's Ability to Use Small Things for Great Purposes

Many Old Testament stories show how God uses small things to accomplish big miracles, just like five loaves and two fish feeding thousands:

David's small sling defeated Goliath (1 Samuel 17).

A widow's tiny bit of oil miraculously sustained her and her son (1 Kings 17:8-16).

Gideon's small army defeated a great enemy (Judges 7).

Jesus continues this pattern by taking something small and making it abundant in God's hands.

Final Connection: Jesus as the Ultimate Provider

Throughout the Old Testament, God is the provider—whether through manna, Elisha's miracle, or the promise of a coming shepherd.

Jesus fulfills these prophecies, proving that He is the true Shepherd, the true Bread of Life, and the One who satisfies both physical and spiritual hunger.

Events:

March 9 - 10am Birthday Celebration with Pancake Breakfast

March 9 - 12:30 Community Vacation Bible School Meeting. Vacation Bible School will be held this year on Sunday, June 22 - Thursday, June 26th.

March 11 - 7-8pm Online Bible Study - Bad Girls of the Bible

March 13 - 7pm Administrative Council Meeting

March 18 - 7-8pm Online Bible Study - Bad Girls of the Bible

March 22 - 5pm Men In Black Band with Potluck Dinner following service

March 25 - 7-8pm Online Bible Study - Bad Girls of the Bible

March 29 - 9am Jefferson Church Summit with Pastor Mark and Pastor Katie at Jefferson UMC

April 6 - Holy Communion

April 6 - 1pm Chili Cook Off and Bake Sale fundraiser.

April 13 - Birthday Celebration

April 17 - 7pm Maundy Thursday Service - Pastor Amy preaching at Jefferson UMC

April 18 - 7pm Good Friday Service

April 20 - 6:30am - Easter Sunrise Service outside and 9am - Easter Service in the sanctuary

Prayers:

Gary Duvall is having health issues (Judi Arnold)

Prayers for Tori Brumback (Anneliese Moats)

Kevin Anderson on his cancer diagnosis (Doris Branch)

Jerry Crouse recovering from back surgery (Doris Branch)

Quiz: The Feeding of the 5000 (Mark 6:30-44)

1. **How many loaves of bread and fish did Jesus use to feed the crowd?**

- a) 3 loaves and 5 fish
- b) 5 loaves and 2 fish
- c) 7 loaves and 3 fish
- d) 4 loaves and 6 fish

2. **Why did Jesus and His disciples initially go to a solitary place?**

- a) To escape from King Herod
- b) To find more food for the people
- c) To rest after their ministry
- d) To perform another miracle

3. **What was Jesus' reaction when He saw the large crowd?**

- a) He was annoyed
- b) He had compassion on them
- c) He told them to leave
- d) He ignored them

4. **How did Jesus organize the people before feeding them?**

- a) He asked them to form a single line
- b) He told them to gather around the disciples
- c) He made them sit in groups of hundreds and fifties

d) He allowed them to take food as they wished

5. **What did Jesus do before distributing the food?**

- a) He commanded the disciples to break the bread
- b) He thanked God and blessed the food
- c) He sent the crowd away
- d) He performed a ritual washing

6. **How many people were fed in this miracle?**

- a) 500 men
- b) 5000 men, plus women and children
- c) 10,000 men only
- d) 12,000 total

7. **How many baskets of leftovers were collected after everyone had eaten?**

- a) 7
- b) 10
- c) 12
- d) 5

8. **What does this miracle demonstrate about Jesus?**

- a) That He was a great cook
- b) That He cared about both spiritual and physical needs
- c) That He wanted to be famous
- d) That He discouraged large gatherings



Answer Key:

- 1. b) 5 loaves and 2 fish
- 2. c) To rest after their ministry
- 3. b) He had compassion on them
- 4. c) He made them sit in groups of hundreds and fifties
- 5. b) He thanked God and blessed the food
- 6. b) 5000 men, plus women and children
- 7. c) 12
- 8. b) That He cared about both spiritual and physical needs

Order of Worship

Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship (Congregation)

Leader: Come, all who are weary and burdened, for Christ sees you with compassion.

People: We come to find rest in the presence of our Savior.

Leader: Bring what you have, no matter how small, and place it in the hands of Jesus.

People: We offer our hearts, our gifts, and our lives, trusting that He will multiply them for His glory.

Leader: Just as Jesus fed the five thousand, He provides for us today with abundance and grace.

People: We come with open hearts, ready to receive and ready to share His love.

Leader: Let us worship the One who is more than enough—our Lord and Provider!

People: Amen! Let us worship together!

Children's Message

***Guide me o thou great Jehovah , p.127 UMC Hymnal**

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:30-44

Sermon: More Than Enough

Offertory - UMC Choir

*Doxology - p.95 UMC Hymnal

Break thou the bread of life , p.599 UMC Hymnal

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God,
who created all things,
who provides for us with abundant love,
and who calls us to walk in faith and trust.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
the Bread of Life, who feeds the hungry,
who sees the weary and has compassion,
who takes what is small and makes it more than enough.
In Him, we find grace, redemption, and eternal hope.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who moves among us, strengthening our faith,

multiplying our gifts, and empowering us to serve.
Through the Spirit, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ,
sharing His love and proclaiming His truth.

We are the Church, the body of Christ,
gathered in worship, sent in mission,
trusting in God's abundant provision.

With faith, we affirm: God is more than enough!
Amen.

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Thy holy wings, o Savior , p.502 UMC Hymnal**

*Sending Forth

Postlude



Sermon Insights

Sermon Lesson:

In the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand (Mark 6:30-44), we see a powerful lesson about trust, provision, and abundance. The disciples saw only their lack—too little food, too many people—but Jesus saw opportunity. He took what seemed small and insufficient, blessed it, and made it more than enough. This teaches us that God doesn't ask for what we don't have—He asks us to trust Him with what we do have. Whether it's our time, talents, or faith—however small—when placed in Jesus' hands, He multiplies it beyond what we can imagine. So today, instead of focusing on what you lack, ask yourself: What do I have that I can place in Jesus' hands? Because in Him, there is always more than enough. Amen.

Application:

- **Trust God's Provision in Your Life** – The disciples saw only scarcity, but Jesus demonstrated that God's provision is always enough. When you face challenges—financial struggles, emotional burdens, or uncertainty—trust that God sees your need and will provide in His perfect way and timing. Instead of worrying, bring your concerns to Him in faith.
- **Offer What You Have, Even If It Seems Small** – The young boy's five loaves and two fish seemed insignificant, but in Jesus' hands, they became an abundant blessing. Likewise, whatever gifts, talents, time, or resources you have—no matter how small—can be multiplied by God to impact others. Be willing to serve, give, and trust that God will use your offering in powerful ways.
- **See Interruptions as Opportunities for Ministry** – Jesus originally sought rest with His disciples, but when He saw the crowd, He had compassion and ministered to them. In our daily lives, unexpected needs and interruptions can feel frustrating, but they are often divine appointments. Instead of seeing them as inconveniences, ask God how He can use you in those moments to show His love and care to others.

Conclusion:

The feeding of the five thousand is more than just a miracle—it's a reminder that God sees our needs, multiplies our offerings, and calls us to trust Him completely. When we surrender what we have, no matter how small, He turns it into more than enough. As we go forward, let's live with faith in God's provision, a willingness to offer what we have, and eyes open to the opportunities He places before us. Because in Jesus, there is always abundance, always grace, and always more than enough. Amen.