

You Give Them Something to Eat

Mark 6:30-44 | Geldart | 2/16/25 | Tru Community Church

1. Introduction:

- a. Last week Brian did such a great job preaching about his WOTY of **Perseverance** – bridging the gap so naturally from our focus on reaching out with reason to our new series starting today.
- b. **This year we've studied reaching out with Faith and Reason, now:**
- c. **[1] New Sermon Series today: Reaching Out with Mission.**
 - i. We were preparing to study through Daniel when I sensed the Lord telling me that instead he wanted us to pivot and preach through this topic.
 - 1. I had everything all planned out too! And we'll get to Daniel eventually (pumped for that one!)
 - 2. But I'm so eager to follow Jesus with you during the next few months.
 - 3. I'm confident this is exactly what he wants us chewing on right now.
- d. **When's the last time you were extremely tired** and desperately longing for a rest? Perhaps it was this morning!?
- e. **Mine was probably New Year's Day this year**, after being up all night with the youth at our lock in. I was hopped up on Starbucks doubleshot energy drinks.
 - i. But dead on my feet.
 - ii. By the time Ben, Sam, and I got home we were TOAST.
 - iii. And I won't mention names, but at least ONE of us was getting a little..... grouchy.
 - 1. Plus, I had a black eye!
 - iv. The last thing in the world I wanted when we got in the door was for Jenn to say FINALLY YOU'RE HOME! I really need your help with these big house projects....
- f. **When's the last time you were extremely tired or spent?**
 - i. Try to step back into that moment.
 - ii. What was it like? And how were you thinking about others and their needs?
- g. Maybe you've just finished one of the busiest, most draining days of your life.
 - i. Maybe you've been at work since early morning,
 - ii. pushing through back-to-back meetings, answering endless emails, and handling difficult conversations.
 - iii. You didn't even have time to take your lunch break.
- h. Or maybe you're a parent who has spent the entire day juggling kids,
 - i. running errands, and barely having a moment to yourself.
 - ii. And again, you haven't even had time to make yourself any breakfast or lunch today.
- i. Whatever your situation, by the time the day is over, you're running on empty.
- j. Imagine coming home after that long day of work, or running errands.
 - i. You're looking forward to sinking into your couch, enjoying a quiet meal, and maybe even getting to bed early for once.
- k. But just as you unlock the door, you hear voices—lots of them.

- i. As you step inside, you see a crowd of people, all looking at you expectantly.
 - ii. Friends, neighbors, even strangers have gathered in your living room,
 - 1. waiting for you to do something for them.
 - iii. Some need advice, others need encouragement,
 - 1. and a few are just hungry and hoping for a meal.
- l. In addition, the house is a disaster and multiple kids are crying and immediately begin pulling on your shirt.
 - i. Your heart sinks. You were desperate for rest, but now, you're faced with overwhelming need. **What do you do?**
- m. **This is exactly what happened to the disciples in Mark 6.** They were physically and emotionally drained, and Jesus invites them to get away with him to rest, but when they arrive at their destination, they find thousands of needy people waiting for them.
 - i. **What happens next is both miraculous and deeply instructive** for us today as we lean into not only a new sermon series about reaching out with mission, but also for where God is calling us as a church.

2. AMBER READS MARK 6:30-44:

[2] 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.

[3] 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! 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,

[4] "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.

3. PRAY

4. [5] The Fatigue and the Need

- a. The disciples return from their mission of going out 2 by 2.

- b. They are tired and in need of rest. They have poured themselves out, sharing the gospel and healing the sick.
 - i. Jesus, also burdened by grief having just learned about John the Baptist's death, seeks solitude with them.
 - ii. They head for a quiet, solitary, desolate place, hoping for time to refresh and regroup.
- c. But as soon as they arrive, they realize that the crowds have beaten them there.
 - i. This solitary place is no longer solitary!
 - ii. Thousands of people are waiting, longing for Jesus' teaching, healing, and presence.
- d. The disciples are zonked, ready to send them away.
 - i. **They see the people as an interruption** to their much-needed rest. And what's more, they couldn't possibly meet all these needs.
- e. **But Jesus sees something different: He saw THE MISSION.**
 - i. The text says Jesus had **compassion**
 - 1. **[6] (*splagnon* – BOWELS/GUT)—a deep, gut-wrenching love for the people.**
 - ii. **Even when he was tired and brokenhearted, His heart breaks for them,**
 - 1. knowing they are like sheep without a shepherd.
 - iii. While the disciples want to send them away, Jesus wants to reach out to them.
- f. **This contrast is key:** the disciples are focused on their own need, but Jesus is focused on the people's need
 - i. They were focused on **ME**
 - ii. He was focused on **THE MISSION!**

5. [7] The Impossibility of the Task

- a. As evening approaches, the **disciples grow practical – as we often do when we're tired.**
 - i. They suggest that Jesus **send the people away to buy food for themselves.**
 - 1. There's nothing here to feed them. We're in a desolate place.
 - 2. Send them away to go find sustenance elsewhere.
 - ii. It's a reasonable solution; the crowd is massive – 5k men —likely around 12,000 people including women and children.
 - 1. No daycare in those days.
- b. They say "Jesus, send them away to try to take care of themselves."
- c. Jesus' response must have shocked them:
 - i. He didn't say yah, that makes sense. We definitely do need an rest anyways.
 - ii. Nor did he say, "I'll take care of it" [brrrrrrrring: miracle]
- d. He said something much **more shocking: "You give them something to eat."**
 - i. **Especially if you're familiar with this story: PAUSE HERE. This is significant.**
- e. Imagine being told to cater a meal for a stadium full of people when you have no resources. The disciples immediately assess the impossibility of the task.
 - i. Feeding the crowd would cost around \$40,000 in today's money—an amount they obviously don't have.
 - ii. **Their response is completely rational:** "We can't. We don't have enough."

1. Clearly, Jesus is setting up a teachable moment here, like he so often did. Let's see if we can catch it.
2. **But Jesus isn't interested in what they lack** — He asks them to assess what they have. "Go and see what you have."

6. [8] A Step of Faith in Obedience

- a. The disciples go on an extensive search:
 - i. Literally went and asked all 12-15 thousand people what they had to contribute
 1. and find five loaves and two fish—a pitiful amount for such a huge crowd.
 2. For a whole stadium of people, we found a happy meal.
 3. **Still, they bring it to Jesus.**
- b. **Here's the key:** they obey without knowing how it will work out.
 - i. Honestly, it seems ridiculous.
 - ii. They don't understand the plan, but they take the first step in faith.
- c. **This is what Jesus asks of us as well: not to have everything figured out, but to bring what we have to Him in obedience and trust.**
- d. Then, Jesus does what only He can do:
 - i. He **blesses** the food.
 1. Blesses the pitifully small offering of what they had.
 - ii. He **breaks** it.
 1. He hands it back to the disciples.
 - iii. And it **multiplies** their offering.
 1. Now, YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT
- e. But notice how the miracle happens:
 - i. **The disciples don't receive a mountain of food all at once.**
 - ii. They have **to** keep coming back **to Jesus** for more.
 - iii. The supply doesn't run out, but it isn't handed over in advance.
 - iv. This is such a powerful picture of dependence and ministry.
 - v. Jesus doesn't give them everything at once—He keeps supplying as they keep serving and keep coming back to Jesus for more.
 1. This is how faith works.

7. [9] Abundant Provision

- a. When all is said and done, every person eats and eats until they are full.
 - i. No one goes away hungry – but all eat until they're satisfied – NO MORE!
- b. But it's not just those in the crowd who are satisfied, but critically, **also the disciples.**
- c. And what's left over? Twelve baskets full—one for each disciple.
- d. The disciples thought that rest and isolation and ease would satisfy them.
 - i. That self protection was what they needed.
 - ii. **But true satisfaction came through their dependence on Jesus** and their participation in His miraculous work of ministering to others.
 1. True satisfaction came through MINISTRY! – **IN reaching out with MISSION**
 - iii. The very ones who wanted to send the people away ended up with more than enough → satisfaction! What they were seeking the whole time.

8. [10] This is Us

- a. This story isn't just about the disciples 2000 yrs ago —**it's about us**. His disciples today.
 - i. Jesus is teaching his disciples in all times and places something critical and universal about how he works, and how HE WANTS US TO WORK
 - ii. We are the ones who see overwhelming need all around us and think, "We can't."
- b. THE NEED
 - i. Now, sitting in the wilderness with 12k people as the sun is setting and everyone is getting hungry, it's fairly easy to see and feel the NEED around us
 - 1. Indeed, we FEEL IT OURSELVES TOO
 - ii. But the need we are surrounded with today is both less visceral (SPLAGNON-ABLE)
 - 1. AND more urgent
 - iii. Whether you live in St. George, or MHK, or Wamego, or farther out,
 - 1. We are surrounded by a great crowd of people in our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our schools, on our kids sports teams, who are SPIRITUALLY FAMISHED
 - iv. Lost and without hope in the world because they are separated from their Creator God and his Son, Jesus
- c. But Jesus says still to us today: YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT.
 - i. [11] Matthew 28:19-20 - ¹⁹ **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ **and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**
 - ii. He calls us likewise to go and make disciples even when the task seems impossible.
 - iii. He doesn't ask us to solve the whole problem—He likewise asks us to bring what we have and trust Him to multiply it.
- d. **The same pattern is seen in the Old Testament.**
 - i. In the wilderness, the Israelites faced an impossible hunger crisis.
 - ii. And what did God do with a multitude of need in the midst of a desolate place?
 - 1. **He provided** manna – bread from heaven.
 - 2. He met their needs in a way only He could.
- e. **Then in the NT we see Jesus continuing this pattern** by becoming the **bread of heaven himself**.
 - i. Offered in prayer to the Father to meet a world of need!
 - ii. Broken for us.
 - iii. Passed out to us by his disciples.
 - iv. That we may pass it on to our neighbors to meet their deep need for living bread and living water.
- f. This is the pattern of God: every member a minister, every disciple a distributor, coming back constantly to Jesus to provide what people need through us.
 - i. AND FOR US. Over and Over
- g. And miracles bring heaven to earth.

h. And the kingdom grows.

i. **Can He do it again today, through us?**

9. [12] REACHING OUT WITH MISSION

a. I believe with deep and settled conviction that this is exactly what God is calling us a church to today.

i. Here. Where we are.

1. In the middle of nowhere KS. St. George, MHK, Wamego.

ii. We are surrounded by a world of need. Multitudes of people who are lost and gone astray. Staggering around in spiritual hunger for the Word of God.

iii. **[13] AMOS 8:11-12** ¹¹ “The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign LORD,

“when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.

¹² People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.

b. [14] My trips to East Asia in college. The need was overwhelming.

i. So few had ever even heard of Jesus or the Gospel. Much less accepted it in faith.

ii. Culture shock led to seeing my role there as a missionary.

1. One who is on a MISSION. It was front and center. All around us.

2. It was the glasses I put on in the morning. The lens I saw all my interactions through.

iii. **[15] Eph 5:15-17** ¹⁵ **Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,** ¹⁶ **making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.** ¹⁷ **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.**

c. Then even more difficult was coming back here. And experiencing Reverse culture shock.

i. Seeing my OWN culture while my missionary glasses were still on.

ii. And everything looked so different.

iii. This was a foreign land, filled with people who were living lives in a spiritual fog.

iv. Distracted with shopping and working.

v. Failing to see that we are all adrift in an ocean of profound need!

1. Without Christ, THEY WILL PARISH! Not just their bodies, but their very souls.

d. For a while after I got back, I saw everything anew with these MISSIONS glasses on.

i. But over time, that view faded.

ii. And it’s so easy to slip back into the fog.

1. The shopping. The work. The politics. The social media. The familiarity. The business as usual.

2. And become blinded again to the rolling ocean of need all around us.

iii. **WHY IS IT LIKE THAT?**

1. **Why don’t we see it that way all the time as Christfollowers?**

10. **[16] Barriers to Living on Mission – to reaching out as ministers of the Gospel as a settled lifestyle:**

- a. If this is our calling, why do we struggle to stay on mission? Several barriers keep us from stepping out in faith:
- b. [17] Mistaken understanding of Church
 - i. **Thinking that attending church = being on mission.**
 - ii. We'll talk more about this next week.
 - iii. Church is not a spectator event
 - iv. Nor is it a once a week gathering.
 - v. Instead it's the family of God on mission for God in our world.
- c. [18] Resistance to change from established members.
 - i. Many resist shifting away from traditional church models.
 - ii. But the early church was always on the move.
 - iii. Passive resistance = choosing not to participate in the mission personally
 - iv. Active resistance = speaking against this direction, sowing division and discontent.
- d. [19] Comfort and consumerism.
 - i. We prefer what is safe and easy.
 - ii. In fact many of us choose churches based on what we like and prefer. What makes us most comfortable.
 - 1. And what requires the least of us
 - 2. The best "bang" for the buck
 - 3. Where we feel FED – get the most food for us and the lowest price
 - iii. But Jesus calls us to step out in faith.
 - 1. And feed OTHERS
 - 2. And through that act, we'll be fed.
 - iv. Because there is a COST to this kind of living. We're called to spend our time, energy, resources
 - 1. Both in terms of a direct cost
 - 2. And an opportunity cost
 - a. There are things we don't and can't do because we choose instead to prioritize doing these missional things.
 - v. When we're tired, we're the most tempted by comfort and consumerism!
- e. [20] Busyness with other priorities
 - i. Busy with other things we prioritize over living this way.
 - ii. That sounds great. I'd love to do that. But I just can't. We're too busy.
 - 1. With work
 - 2. With kids activities
 - 3. School
 - 4. Hobbies
 - 5. Travel
 - 6. Entertainment
 - 7. To-Do-List
- f. [21] Fear
 - i. Fear of failure, rejection, or inadequacy can hold us back.

- ii. But remember: God doesn't call the equipped—He equips the called.

g. [22] Apathy

- i. Lack of love – SPLAGNON – for our neighbors
- ii. We don't reach out because we don't really care.
- iii. It's far easier to stay blinded to the need.
- iv. To avoid splagnon
- v. And let our hearts grow cold toward others. Not like we're mean. But we just don't care all that much.

h. WHAT BARRIER(S) TO LIVING ON MISSION DO YOU RESONATE WITH?

11. Conclusion:

a. [23] REACHING OUT WITH:

b. MISSION:

- i. The need is great!
- ii. The crowd's physical needs served as a template for their deeper SPIRITUAL NEEDS
- iii. JESUS is teaching his disciples that he is all about the mission.
 - 1. And he wants them to be too!
- iv. AND SAME GOES FOR US.
 - 1. We are called to, like Jesus, see the need and have SPLAGNON – DEEP VISCERAL COMPASSION for the needy around us.
 - 2. Seeing the true spiritual need deeper than the surface of our neighbors.

c. But it's not just in light of the needs of others, it's also best for:

d. [24] ME:

- i. It's as we follow God in ministry to others that we become satisfied ourselves.
- ii. We think we need to protect ourselves so we can be satisfied and rest. But Jesus invites us to find those things AS WE PROVIDE THEM FOR OTHERS
- iii. Here's the challenge: Obedience comes first. Then, joy and satisfaction follow.
- iv. The disciples faced an impossible task.
 - 1. But Jesus asked them to step out in faith.
 - 2. As they obeyed, He provided for everyone abundantly.
 - a. Because Jesus MULTIPLIES what we Surrender!**
- v. The same principle applies today.
 - 1. The need around us is overwhelming, but Jesus calls us to step out in faith and minister to them out of what we DO have.
 - 2. As we do, we will find that He not only provides for those we serve but also satisfies our own souls in the process.

12. Application

a. [25] God is calling us as a church to embrace this lifestyle of ministry.

- i. Reaching out with MISSION out in our world, in our neighborhoods.
- ii. WHERE THEY ARE

b. [26] God is calling YOU to embrace personal ministry as the mission of your life.

- i. God intends YOU do personally do this, and he's calling you to something even now.

c. [27] God will satisfy YOUR SOUL as you step out in obedience in personal ministry

13.[28] Reflection Questions

- a. When have you felt too exhausted to serve but saw God work through you?
- b. What need do you see that is impossible/far beyond your ability to meet?
 - i. Where is his Spirit trying to elicit SPLAGNON in you?
- c. What is Jesus asking you to do about it?
 - i. Who is God telling YOU to give them something to eat?

14.PRAY

15.[29] Communion

- a. Jesus is calling us to follow him where he's already been.
- b. And where he is now, at work.
- c. He is the bread of life our neighbors need
- d. And he gave himself up for them
- e. Like this bread, his body was offered up and broken on the cross
- f. And like the juice, his blood poured out to pay not only the penalty for our sin
 - i. But to purchase for us a new covenant with God, based on grace
- g. As we celebrate communion today, I invite you to give great thanks that he came for you.
 - i. And accept his mission to likewise take the Good News to your neighbors.

REACHING OUT WITH MISSION



MARK 6:30-44

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.



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“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.



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SPLAGNON



THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF THE TASK

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MATTHEW 28:19-20

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REACHING OUT WITH MISSION



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BARRIERS TO LIVING ON MISSION



BARRIERS TO LIVING ON MISSION

1. Mistaken Understanding of Church



BARRIERS TO LIVING ON MISSION

1. Mistaken Understanding of Church
2. Resistance to Change



BARRIERS TO LIVING ON MISSION

1. Mistaken Understanding of Church
2. Resistance to Change
3. Comfort and Consumerism



BARRIERS TO LIVING ON MISSION

1. Mistaken Understanding of Church
2. Resistance to Change
3. Comfort and Consumerism
4. Busyness with other priorities



BARRIERS TO LIVING ON MISSION

1. Mistaken Understanding of Church
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5. Fear



BARRIERS TO LIVING ON MISSION

1. Mistaken Understanding of Church
2. Resistance to Change
3. Comfort and Consumerism
4. Busyness with other priorities
5. Fear
6. Apathy



REACHING OUT WITH MISSION



REACHING OUT WITH MISSION ME



APPLICATIONS

1. God is calling our church to this lifestyle.



APPLICATIONS

1. God is calling our church to this lifestyle.
2. God is calling you personally to this lifestyle.



APPLICATIONS

1. God is calling our church to this lifestyle.
2. God is calling you personally to this lifestyle.
3. God will satisfy you as you step out ministry.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How am I coming in to considering this call?
2. What need do I see that is impossible?
3. What is Jesus asking me to do?



COMMUNION

