

## INTRODUCE

Well, good morning, Fathom Church!

Hey, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to Matthew chapter 14.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to Matthew 14,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
  - under every single chair.
  - You’ll find Matthew 14 on page **820**.

A big welcome to our friends and family joining us online!

- You can click that bible tab on your screen to find Matthew 14.

## MOTHER’S DAY

Happy Mother’s Day. Give it up for all the mommas.

And here’s what I know about today:

- Mother’s Day can represent some of your highest highs...
- but it can also represent some of your lowest lows.

So, let me just say this, a little theology lesson.

- Did you know that when Adam gave Eve her name,
  - and her name means *mother of all living things*,
- but when he named her that,
- she had not yet given birth?

So, here’s what this means...

- in the kingdom of God, in the church, if you are a woman,
- whether you have biological children or not,
- you are called to be a mamma in the kingdom of God.

This is why the church is called a family,

- and we need every single momma in this place
- to do what God has called you to do,
- because we're all in this thing together.

So, if this day represents great joy for you, then give God the praise.

- And if this day represents great pain,
  - then give God praise, as well.
- But truth is we could not make it without all of you gals!

So, love you all!

## INTRODUCTION

Alright church...

- last week's sermon was on a beheading,
  - and adultery,
  - and incest...
- and today we're talking about evangelism!

So, I don't know which you'll like less!

And I've told you before, but when COVID hit,

- we, like most churches,
  - experienced some down-turn...
  - we lost some people...

But over the last year there've been a bunch of new people.

- And there almost a renewal of folks coming just saying,
  - *"I don't know what it is,*
  - *but God's doing something in me..."*

And so, with all these newer people, one of the questions that is asked at almost every single Pastor's Coffee is:

- *“what’s your program for outreach and evangelism?”*
- *You guys say that you’re passionate about*
- *seeing new people GO DEEPER with God,*
- so, **SLIDE WHAT’S THE PLAN?**

## **BAD EVANGELISM PLANS**

- Are you guys going to have strong, body-builder, type guys
  - come in and tear phonebooks and tell people,
  - “Hey, if you love Jesus then you can tear phone books.”
- Are you going to start doing mass mailers...
  - and hang up posters
  - and billboards
  - and advertisements?
- Are you going to give people signs and bullhorns
  - and tell them to go to Rockies games and yell at people,
  - so that they’ll come to know Jesus?

What’s your plan? What’s your plan for outreach and evangelism?

## **OUR PLAN**

But frankly, our plan hasn’t really changed over the years:

- No, we aren’t going to put on events with ripped bros who can break things.
  - We won’t be event evangelists.

- And we probably won't change our advertising strategy...
  - If you can call NOT having one...a strategy!
- And no...no bullhorns.
  - If you do that, and say you're from Fathom,
  - we will deny culpability.

You see, our plan for evangelism...

- our plan for reaching our neighbors...
- our plan for seeing people who don't know Jesus
  - come to know Jesus...
- is simply this: our plan is YOU.

### **BLANK SLIDE**

You know, we had almost 50 first-time guests on Easter Sunday...

- and I think, without exception,
- every single one of them came because someone invited them!

Do you know how awesome that is!

### **THE CHURCH'S JOB**

But you see, one thing that can happen as a church grows...  
is that you can think that plan has changed.

- Like as we get bigger,
  - and we have two services,
  - and there's a bunch of new people,
- sometimes we can mistakenly think...
- that is the PASTOR'S job...
- to do outreach and evangelism.

And I don't think you would ever say this to me...but you might think it.

- *“Well, what are we paying you for, Chris?”*
- *You seem equipped to share the gospel.*
  - *So, how about you do that?*
  - *Just put your little face mic on...*
  - *And we'll just keep coming on Sundays...*
    - *and be entertained by you...*
    - *and we'll keep paying your salary...*
- *but you're the one in ministry here.”*

But listen, that's actually kinda backwards.

- In the book of Ephesians,
  - which we're going to study this fall
  - when I'm back from Sabbatical,
- but in Ephesians 4:12
- Paul says that the reason God gives us pastors
- **is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry.**

So, I don't really work in the ministry...

- I work in the equipping industry...
- and you work in the ministry.

You're the one who lives where you live.

You're the one who plays where your play.

You're the one who works where you work.

Plus, I'm pretty sure everyone I work with is already a Christian...

And our commitment, no matter how much we grow as a church,

- is that WE'RE going to preach the Bible...
- and WE'RE going to celebrate each week in song
  - and prayer
  - and communion.
- And WE'RE going to do our best to build structures for discipleship
  - and give opportunities for you to serve.

But at the end of the day, we are committed to being utterly reliant on YOU to do the work of ministry in our city.

- If YOU don't love your neighbor.
- If YOU aren't committed to praying for your neighbors and co-workers and friends.
- If YOU don't long for your friends and family and neighborhood to know and love Jesus.

Then Fathom Church will be dead in the water.

## TRANSITION

Now, I'm not just making this stuff up.

Let's look at our text today, because I think it backs this premise up.

Now, the story today is the feeding of the 5,000...

And I need you to know something:

- this is the only miracle,
- other than the resurrection of Jesus,
- that is recorded in all four gospels.

This indicates the vast importance it had for the church because of the depth of its theology. It's the only miracle in all four gospels.

So, Matthew chapter 14.

Let's pick up where we left off last week in verse 13.

## **MATTHEW 14:13-14**

[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.

## **EXPLAIN: CONTEXT**

Now, it starts with **when Jesus heard this**.

What is it that he heard?

- Well, some mistakenly think
- he's hearing about the death of John the Baptist,
  - which we looked at last week...
- but remember, that was a flashback—
  - all the way to chapter 4.
- So, Jesus certainly hasn't JUST HEARD about John's death.

What Jesus has just heard about, is that Herod has now heard about Jesus

- and he thinks Jesus is John the Baptist raised from the dead!
  - And Herod had killed John...
  - and Jesus isn't ready to face him, yet...
  - so, Jesus withdraws to a desolate place.

Now, in Luke's account of this miracle he identifies this place as Bethsaida.

- This is an important detail
  - because Bethsaida is outside of
  - Herod the tetrarch's regional control.

So, Jesus goes to a desolate place, by himself...

- but the crowds show how eager they are to be with Jesus
  - by following him on foot.

He sees a huge crowd,

- and the text says that he had compassion on them
- and healed their sick.

### **EXPLAIN: SPLACHNIZOMAI**

And the Greek term translated compassion,

- is the word *splagchnizomai* [splaugh-need'-zom-ahi].
- And *splagchnizomai* literally means:
  - to be moved in one's bowels.

You see, the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and mercy.

- And Jesus is so deeply moved with love for these people
- that he starts healing them one by one.

Is this how you think of your unsaved friends and family?

- Do you have *splagchnizomai* [splaugh-need'-zom-ahi] for them?
- Are you moved deep in your bowels with compassion for them?

Cause Jesus is.

Verse 15:



## **MATTHEW 14:15**

[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."

### **EXPLAIN: PROBLEM**

So, apparently, Jesus spends the whole day healing people. And when evening comes, his disciples come to him with a PROBLEM.

The PROBLEM...

- there are way too many people here for us to feed.
- We'll find out in verse 21 that there were 5,000 men.
  - They only counted the men,
  - but there were women and children there as well...
- so, this could have been upwards of 20,000 people.

So that's the PROBLEM, and the disciples propose a PLAN:

- send the people away to go buy food for themselves.

Now, listen, this is the LOGICAL solution to a REAL problem.

But, something really interesting here:

- in John's gospel account of this story
- he points out that it's Philip
- who made this ask of Jesus.

Now, Philip was the disciple who Jesus called in John chapter 1

And when Jesus calls Philip to come follow him,

- Philip immediately goes and finds his buddy Nathanael

- and says, *"We've found the one*
- *who the law and the prophets wrote about!*
- *Come and see."*

So, Philip is the first evangelist!

He's the first one on record to ever share about Jesus with another person.

But a really interesting little note. In John 1:44 it says this:

### **SLIDE JOHN 1:44**

[44] Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

### **BLANK SLIDE**

## **APPLICATION**

Now, remember where Jesus has withdrawn to escape the hand of Herod the tetrarch? Yeah Bethsaida.

So, Philip is back in his hometown!

- And he's been following Jesus since John 1.
  - He was disciple number 4.
- So, that means he was the wedding at Cana in John 2,
  - where when the wine ran out,
  - Jesus performed his first miracle
  - by transforming water into wine.

And now Philip...

- who may have even known some of the crowd...
- comes to Jesus with a LOGICAL solution
- to an insurmountable PROBLEM.

- Even after he had witnessed Jesus perform a miracle
- in a similar category.

And I just think it might be something to note:

We can often become the most apathetic where we are most comfortable.

- The COME AND SEE Philip
  - is now saying,
- SEND THEM AWAY.

## TRANSITION

But Jesus is about to blow all their minds...

- by involving the disciples at a deeper level
- in this miracle
- than at any other time.

Verse 16:

## MATTHEW 14:16

[16] But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

## POINT 1

There it is. It's point 1 for me today. **SLIDE YOU ARE THE PLAN**

You see, to the PROBLEM of 20,000 people with no food.

- The disciple's plan was to send the people away.
- But Jesus' plan WAS the disciples.

You give them something to eat.

In essence, I think he's saying:

- You have *splagchnizomai* [splough-need'-zom-ahi] on them.
- You should feel it in your bowels
  - this love and compassion for them!
- AND if you trust me,
  - I'll provide for you...
  - and you'll provide for them!

YOU ARE THE PLAN.

**BLANK SLIDE** Verse 17:

## **MATTHEW 14:17**

[17] They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish."

### **EXPLAIN: LOAVES & FISH**

Alright...the disciples are shocked!

How can they provide for 5000 men and their families?

- In Mark's account the disciples say
  - it would take 200 denarii,
  - or two-thirds of a year's wages
  - to purchase enough food to feed all these people.
- And in John's account they say
  - that these five loaves and two fish
  - came from one little boy,
  - and the loaves are described as **barley loaves**.

Now, Barley was the grain of the poor. Ok?

- These are not modern loaves
  - that they can slice up for multiple people,
- but smaller loaves about the size of a bun.

And I've been to Israel...the fish this boy had weren't like...

- a pig-of-a-trout you catch fly-fishing.
- or a trophy bass you take a picture with.

No, these are probably very small, salty fish, to spread on the bread.

Think sardines.

So, this is a basic Galilean peasant's lunch.

It is not made for sharing!

## **APPLICATION**

Now, as I was reading this verse this week,

- a thought I'd never had before
- while reading this passage hit me...
- literally for the very first time.

You're telling me that in a crowd with maybe 20,000 people...

all the food to be found was one peasant boy's sack lunch.

I'm just not buying that!

## **ILLUSTRATION: PURSE CORN**

Listen, when we were kids my mom would sometimes take us to the movie theater.

And what's the first thing you see when you walk into the movies?

- The concessions stands!
  - Popcorn
  - and hotdogs
  - and Sour Patch Kids
  - and Soda.

And gosh if we didn't want

- a big ole bucket of popcorn...
  - covered in that oily stuff they call butter...
- with a giant Sprite.

But not with my momma. Never!

- We ain't spending 12-bucks...
- on a small bag of nasty popcorn!
- No way!

So, what my momma would do is she'd pop a bag of popcorn at home...

- divvy it up into smaller baggies...
  - and not ziplock bags...
  - nah, those were too bougee for us...
  - we'd get the sandwich bags with a twisty tie on them.
- And she'd sneak popcorn into the movies in her big ole purse!

Did any of your momma do this? It was so embarrassing.

- Well, inevitably one of those bags would open up...
  - like a twisty tie would come off...
- and a bag of popcorn would dump out into her purse.

And I can remember days or weeks later,

- being out with momma shopping or whatever,
- getting hungry,
- and digging around in her purse,
- only to find some of that spilled popcorn.
  - Score!
  - We called it purse corn!
  - Tasted like mints...

You know what I'm talking about?

## APPLICATION

You're trying to tell me that in a crowd of 20,000 people

- there weren't some Israelite mommas
- with a little purse jerky...
- or something going on there?

Every time we leave our house

- my wife puts a granola bar in her purse "just in case".
- She's probably got a baker's dozen bars in her purse.

You see, I don't buy that there were only 5 loaves and 2 fish in that crowd.

- I just think there was only one boy
  - who brought what he had to Jesus...

## POINT 2

And it got me thinking...

**how many more miracles were just sitting in purses that day.**

And it's my second point for the day.

- YOU ARE THE PLAN...
- but **SLIDE** YOU CAN MISS OUT

How often do we look at what we have and think,

- *"Nah...that's not enough."*
  - *That's just barley bread.*
  - *That's just purple corn.*
- *Jesus can't do anything with that!*
- *Jesus can't do anything with what I have.*
  - *I can't sing.*
  - *I can't preach.*
  - *Those are the things he uses.*
- *Not me."*

But that's Philip's thinking.

- **Send them away!**
- *This is impossible!*

But YOU CAN MISS OUT by leaving the miracle in your bag.

**BLANK SLIDE** Verse 18:

### **MATTHEW 14:18-19**

[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.



## EXPLAIN: STEPS

So, here we get practical's for how YOU ARE THE PLAN...  
for God's ministry. Four steps.

And the first is: you **SLIDE BRING IT**

- You BRING IT!
- You bring what you've got to Jesus.
  - It might be your time.
  - It might be an ability or a gifting.
  - It might be a relationship...
  - or the place you live...
- No matter how seemingly small you think it might be,
- you bring what you've got to Jesus.

This is step one. Note:

- We're involved,
- but we're passive.

The message is clear:

- none of us can accomplish anything of consequence
- in our own strength.

But we've gotta bring what we've got.

Just like this boy brought his poor sack lunch to Jesus, we BRING IT.

Step two: he'll **SLIDE BLESS IT**

Jesus will take what we bring him and he will bless it.

- Now, don't think of this as some sort of
- supernatural imparting of power
- in what you bring to Jesus.

No. Jesus is not “blessing the food”,

- but rather,
- he is blessing the Lord FOR the food.

So, it’s about thankfulness.

We are thankful for what we have.

- And as God blesses it...
- we bless Him back...
- and thus, the thing itself is blessed.

Step three: he’ll often **SLIDE BREAK IT**

Now, some think this is purely pragmatic, so that Jesus can begin to distribute the bread, but I think there might be some figurative breaking going on here as well.

- You see, when we bring what we have to Jesus,
  - he’ll very often break it apart
  - to be used more efficiently
  - in ways we may have never seen before.

You might bring something and think,

- *“I know exactly how God is going to use this thing!”*
  - Only to have your expectations broken...
  - but in the most glorious ways.

And then finally, step 4: we **SLIDE GIVE IT**

- BRING IT
- BLESS IT
- BREAK IT
- And GIVE IT

- Oh, how I wracked my brain for another B word,
- “Bounce it”...nah...
- it just didn't work out!

But Jesus GIVES the loaves back to the disciples...

and then the disciples GIVE them to the crowds.

- You GIVE IT.
- Again, YOU ARE THE PLAN.

He's going to TAKE and BLESS and BREAK,

- but then he'll hand it back to you...
- to do the work of the ministry with!

Now, let's finish our text.

**BLANK SLIDE** Verses 20-21

### **MATTHEW 14:20-21**

[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.

### **EXPLAIN: LEFT-OVERS**

**They all ate and were satisfied.**

- They not only ate,
- but they were satisfied,
- and there were leftovers...
  - not just enough...
  - but MORE than enough!

## APPLICATION

So, the question I want to ask of this text...is why?

- Why go through this whole process?
- Why not just do the miracle and feed the people?
- Why did Jesus just do it himself?

Well, to quote C.S. Lewis: **SLIDE**

*“God seems to do nothing of Himself which He can possibly delegate to His creatures. He commands us to do slowly and blunderingly what He could do perfectly and in the twinkling of an eye.”*

## **SLIDE** YOU ARE THE PLAN

### ILLUSTRATION: WORKING WITH DAD

I know I’ve illustrated it like this before, but I can’t think of a better one:

When I was growing up, every weekend my dad...

- was working on some project
- or doing some chore...
  - He’d mow the lawn meticulously every week.
  - He was always planting a tree, or cutting down a tree,
  - And he even built a beautiful new deck on our house.

Well, I can remember, as a little boy, wanting so badly to help my dad with all these tasks.

And so, every Saturday...

- if dad was mowing the lawn...
  - I’d get my toy plastic mower,
  - and I would follow him step for step.

- And if dad was planting a tree,
  - I'd get my plastic shovel
  - and help him dig the hole.
- And if dad was building a deck,
  - well, I had some small tools...
  - and I was right with him.

And dad was great.

- He'd thank me for my help mowing.
- And he'd let me dig little holes for trees.
- And he'd even give me a couple pieces of wood
  - and a nail to hammer on
  - while building the deck.

And I literally thought I was dad's number 2 worker.

- Like, without me, he wasn't getting any of this done.

And now, as a dad myself, I realize...I wasn't very helpful...at all.

In fact, it would have been easier for my dad to do those things... without my help.

- I just made it slower for him to cut the grass!
- Those holes I was digging for trees...he had to fill back in!
- And it took me a few years to realize,
  - "Hey...they never used any of the boards
  - I nailed together
  - on that deck!"

But the reason Dad let me work with him

- wasn't because he needed help.

The reason my dad let me work with him

- was because he loved me,
- he wanted to spend time with me,
- and he wanted me to become more like him.

I guess that illustration would have been more appropriate on Father's Day, rather than Mother's Day...

- but it's the same with my daughter.
- Harper is like Maryse's mini-me.
  - She wants to help bake.
  - She wants to workout with her.
  - She wants to do the things that momma does.

## APPLICATION

Church, that's what ministry is like! You get to go to work with your dad.

And it's not even that God needs us...

- It'd be far more practical
  - for God to simply show up to everyone in a burning bush.
- It'd be far more pragmatic
  - if God would audibly speak to everyone.
- It'd be far more utilitarian
  - if God would just heal people,
  - and reveal himself to people,
  - and serve people himself.

But that's just not how God decided to do this! YOU ARE THE PLAN!

**BLANK SLIDE WITH PADS**

## CONCLUSION

So, what do you got? What do you have to bring?

Now, this is usually the part of the sermon where the enemy begins to whisper to us with REASON...trying to get us to MISS OUT...

- *“You don't have what it takes...”*
- *You're not gifted...*
- *If you bring what you have...people will laugh...*
- *If you bring it, you won't have enough for you...*
  - *You're too busy...*
  - *You're too tired...*
  - *You need some 'you time'...*

Or, he comes at us with condemnation:

- *“You can't do this...”*
- *You can't be used...*
- *With what you've done...*
- *If they only knew...*
- *They'd never want you on the team!”*

To which I would just respond to you...have you seen God's draft board?

- God drafts like the Broncos draft, yo!
- You picked who?

I mean, listen,

- if you were valedictorian,
- and all American,
- and top of your class,
- and the best of the best,
- and student body president,
- and prom king or queen...

If that's you, I've got good news!

- God can use you, too!
- You're just not his first pick!

He likes to use

- the nobodies
- and nothings
- from nowhere
- to do exceedingly more than we could imagine!

One peasant boy with five loaves and two fish!

Think about who God picks in the Bible:

- Noah was a drunk.
  - Jacob was a thief and a liar.
- Joseph was a convict.
  - Moses was a murderer.
- Sampson was a bully.
  - Gideon was a coward.
- David was an adulterer.
  - Solomon was a womanizer.



- Jonah was a racist.
  - Mary was a teen mom.
- Peter was a hypocrite.
  - James and John were power hungry.
- Matthew was a traitor.
  - Thomas was a doubter.
- Paul was a terrorist.
  - Russell Wilson was a Seahawk.

He can use anybody!

## **ENDING**

So, what about you. What do you got?

Here's how I want to close...I want us to pray,

- but I want you to set your hands in your lap,
- and open them up.

And I want you to ask God to show you what it is you've got.

- Maybe it's time,
- maybe it's an ability,
- maybe it's a resource.

And I want you to ask the Holy Spirit to show you...

what it is you've got that you need to BRING to him...

- so he can BLESS it...
- and BREAK it...
- and GIVE it back to you to use for his glory.

Let's pray.

## RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – [fathomchurch.org/give](http://fathomchurch.org/give)
- PRAYER - [fathomchurch.org/prayer](http://fathomchurch.org/prayer)
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

### 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

## RESOURCES USED:

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- Lusko, Levi. *This is Only a Test.*
- Martin, Joby. *You Feed Them.*
- Osborne, Grant R. Matthew: Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament.