

Matthew 14:13-21

September 8, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro -

- Turning water into wine
- Raising Lazarus from the dead
- Healing ten lepers are all found in just one gospel.

- Healing the demon possessed man in Capernaum is found in two gospels.

- Restoring a man's withered hand
- Calming the storm on the sea
- Walking on water are all found in three gospels.

The only miracle that's found in all four gospels is the feeding of the 5,000.

Matthew wrote primarily to *Jewish* readers and presented Jesus as the promised Messiah--*The King of Israel*. (The word king or kingdom is used more in Matthew than in any other gospel)

Mark wrote primarily to the *Romans* and presented Jesus as the *Perfect Servant*.

Mark 10:45 - The Son of Man didn't come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.

Luke wrote mainly to *Gentiles* and emphasized the *Humanity* of Jesus.

Luke 19:10 - The *Son of Man* has come to seek and save that which was lost.

John emphasized the *Deity of Jesus*--the fact that Jesus is God.

John 14:9 - "If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father."

John 10:30 - "I and the Father are one."

Four gospels:

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- Written by four different human authors

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- **To four different groups of people**
- **Emphasizing four different aspects of who Jesus is**
- **And each one records this miracle**

Have you ever noticed that every miracle begins with a problem?

So, the good news is, if you have a problem, you're a candidate for a miracle.

v.12 - Then John's disciples came and took away the body and buried it and went and told Jesus. When Jesus heard *it*, (that John the Baptist had been murdered) He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."

What was the problem?

- **5,000 hungry men with no food.**

What was the disciples' solution?

- ***Send them away!***

v.16 - But Jesus said to them, "They don't need to go away. You give them something to eat."

Why did Jesus put them in this impossible situation?

- **15,000-20,000 people... out in the middle of nowhere... with no food.**

John 6:5-6 - Jesus said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" He asked him this to test him, because Jesus already knew what He was going to do.

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Someone wrote: *Life is a test. God constantly watches your response to people, problems, success, conflict, illness, and disappointment. He even watches the simplest actions such as when you open a door for others, when you pick up a piece of trash, or when you're polite toward a clerk or waitress.*

You'll be test by major changes, delayed promises, impossible problems, unanswered prayers, undeserved criticism and even senseless tragedies. God tests my faith through problems, tests my hope by how I handle possessions, and tests my love through people.

When you understand that life is a test, you realize that nothing is insignificant in your life. Every day is an important day, and every second is a growth opportunity to deepen your character, to demonstrate love, or to depend on God.

When you're faced with a seemingly impossible situation--who do you turn to?

What was their initial reaction?

Mark 6:37 - They said to Him, "Shall we go and buy 200 denarii worth of bread?"

John 6:8-9 - Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There's a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish."

John 1:41-42 - Andrew found his brother Simon, and said to him, "We've found the Messiah." And he brought him to Jesus.

Edward Kimball was determined to win his Sunday School class to Christ. One of the boys, a teenager named Dwight, tended to fall asleep on Sundays, but Kimball, set out to reach him at work. His heart was pounding as he entered the store where the young man worked. "I put my hand on his shoulder, and I asked him to come to Christ." But Kimball left thinking he'd botched the job. His presentation of the gospel seemed halting and he was downcast. Dwight, however, left the store that day a new person and eventually became the most prominent evangelist in America.

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In 1873, Dwight L. Moody arrived in Liverpool, England, for a series of crusades. While he was there, Moody visited a Baptist chapel pastored by a man named F. B. Meyer. Meyer was soon transformed by Moody's message.

At Moody's invitation, Meyer toured America. At Northfield Bible Conference, he challenged the crowds saying, "If you're not willing to give up everything for Christ, are you willing to be made willing?" That remark changed the life of a struggling young minister named J. Wilbur Chapman.

Chapman proceeded to become a powerful traveling evangelist in the early 1900's, and he recruited a converted baseball player named Billy Sunday. Sunday became one of the most spectacular evangelists in American history. His campaign in Charlotte, North Carolina, produced a group of converts who continued praying for another such visitation of the Spirit. In 1934, they invited evangelist Mordecai Ham to conduct a citywide crusade. It was during that crusade that Billy Graham was converted. And it all started with Edward Kimball!

That is the point of the miracle.

- **God can use anyone**
- **God can use anything--no matter how small**

Someone: *"Little becomes much when you place it in the Master's hands."*

- **It doesn't matter if you have a little**
- **It doesn't matter if you have a lot**
- **What matters is that you give all you have and all you are to Jesus for Him to use.**

Ray Boltz wrote:

**He heard the preacher say, "A single dime could feed
A hungry boy or girl with nothing to eat."**

So he pulled a dollar from the pocket of his jeans

And he asked his Mama, "How many will this feed?"

She just smiled and told him, "ten."

Then he reached back in again.

"What if I give all I have? What will that gift do?"

"My child, a gift like that could change the world

It could feed a multitude!"

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Long ago, a Father and His Son
Saw the children lost in sin
Can you see the tears in the Father's eyes
As Jesus says to Him?
"What if I give all I have? What will that gift do?"
"My Son, that gift will change the world.
It will free the multitude."

Here's what you need to understand:

- The important thing isn't how much you have.
- How much talent you have
- How much money you have
- The important thing is that you give what you have to Jesus

v.17-20 - They said to Him, "We have only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were (What's that next word?) filled.

John 6:7 - "200 denarii worth of bread isn't sufficient for them, that everyone may have a little."

Did Jesus want to give them a little?

No. He wanted them to be filled.

John 10:10 - "I've come that they might have life, and have it to the full."

C.S. Lewis: If we consider the unblushing promises of... the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We're half-

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hearted creatures, fooling about with [lesser things] when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies... because he can't imagine what's meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We're far too easily pleased.

v.20 - So they all ate and were filled, and they took up *twelve baskets* full of the fragments that remained.

Someone wrote: *Lend you boat for an afternoon to Jesus and He'll return it to you laden with fish. Place in His hands your barley loaves and fish, and He'll not only satisfy your hunger but return twelve baskets to you. God refuses to be the debtor to any man. He repays with interest. When the Good Samaritan left the inn, he said to the innkeeper, "Take care of him and whatever you spend, when I come again, I'll repay." If this is true of a man, how much more of God? Christ places His ministry in our care and says: "Take care of this work, expend what's necessary and I'll repay."*

Matthew 19 - Peter said to Jesus, "We've left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" Jesus said, "In the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory... everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundred times as much."

Phil. 4:19 - My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Phil. 4:14-19 - It was good of you to share in my troubles... In the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only... You sent me aid again and again when I was in need... I'm amply supplied, now that I've received the gifts you sent... My God will supply all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

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Many years ago two young men were working their way through Stanford University. At one point their money was almost gone, so they decided to engage the great pianist Paderewski for a concert and use the profits for board and tuition. Paderewski's manager asked for a guarantee of \$2,000. The students worked hard to promote the concert, but they came up \$400 short. After the performance, they went to the musician, gave him all the money they'd raised, and promised to pay the \$400 as soon as they could. It appeared that their college days were over. *"No, boys, that won't do,"* said the pianist. *"First, take out of this \$1,600 all your expenses, and then, each of you, take 10% for your work. I'll take whatever is left over."* Years passed. Paderewski became prime minister of Poland following World War I. Thousands of his countrymen were starving. Only one man could help, the head of the U.S. Food and Relief Bureau (Herbert Hoover). Paderewski's appeal to him brought thousands of tons of food. Later he met the American statesman to thank him. The man said, *"You don't remember, but I remember you. If it wasn't for you I never would have graduated from Stanford and been in this position."*

Conclusion - Every miracle starts with a problem.

I want to encourage you today to put everything in Jesus' hands:

- **your problems... your challenges... your hopes... your dreams... your time... your talent... and yourself...**