

2.24.19 Sermon Pastor Jordan Gades Matt 14:13-33

Grace and Peace to you from God our father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

So today we heard about in Matthew the incredibly iconic feeding of the 5000 and we are going to be talking more about that. I mean this story has got to be in the top 5 for stories people know about Jesus. When you describe Jesus it's; he died and rose again, he healed people, he fed people, lots and lots of people. And this isn't the only time that Jesus does a miraculous feeding either. He does it again and again wherever he goes. He just does it.

Sabbath - being made full by God, we need this, this retreat from everything that drains us and wears us down. I don't know exactly what it is but I come to church to be filled back up. Sabbath, when we are empty we seek whatever we can to "fill" the space. God commands us to take Sabbath in the 3rd commandment.

"When he heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself."

The first step of the Sabbath the first step here is taking action. Jesus Withdrew. He just does it. It doesn't say that angels came, made him stop what he was doing then dragged him away. No He withdrew, he made the choice to step back, knowing that is what he needed in that time.

There is a discipline behind everything that God tells us to do. We want to just say, yeah I'm going to take a break when I need it, that's what everyone does right. I'll slow down when I need to. I'll find that way to be filled when I'm empty. A true Sabbath requires years of practice. The Jews back with Jesus had insane amounts of rules about the Sabbath because they knew that we don't do this naturally. But Jesus just does it naturally. God just does it naturally. And if your God takes the time for respite that's a pretty good sign we should be as well.

So Jesus is trying to take his Sabbath. But the people, they just keep on coming. And how is he supposed to find his Sabbath in that?

But instead of getting angry, instead of fleeing further to just get 5 minutes along, 5 minutes to mourn, to rest, he instead turns to the crowd. He goes to them He has compassion on them. He heals them, he brings them good news of life and fills them up. He doesn't need to be begged or pleaded with. These people are the ones who need this light in their lives. There is just something about this man that keeps drawing them in. they are traveling further and further from their homes and everything that they ever knew and understand and keep following this unknown.

So here's the picture now, just all these people out in the middle of nowhere, along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. There's no food, no shelter, nothing here. Imagine starting in Garrison and walking along the shore of mille lacs and getting half way to Malmö and evening comes. Everyone is hungry, everyone is tired, but everyone is on this high of being in the presence of this prophet, this teacher, this healer, this wild energy just seems to be coming from just being in presence. And in the midst of this we see the disciples talking to Jesus. These disciples who seem to care about all these people, wants what's best for them, want them to be fed and warm. Want all of these things and can't comprehend a way out of the situation they are in. they tell Jesus you have to send these people home.

But Jesus tells them. "Go feed them" oh disciples of mine. Go feed them. Just Go and do the impossible. Take everything you think you know and throw it out the window and feed them. They can't do it but Jesus just does it.

How does he keep doing it? What is it about Jesus that he is just able to just do all these things? He takes the time to restore and recenter himself, he has compassion when he is tired, he blesses with abundance when there should only be scarcity. How does he keep going? He just does it over and over and I just can't help but to think I don't think I would have done any of it.

I wouldn't have taken my Sabbath at the right time. I wouldn't have wanted to help those people, I wouldn't have any idea how to feed those people. And as I start thinking about it. That seems to become my default answer to whenever Jesus asks me something. Well Jesus, I don't want to. Don't you know I'm busy, don't you know that I have other important thing to do in my life, don't you know that after doing all those things I can barely get 5 minutes to myself. And yet Jesus keeps asking me to do keeping doing?

So why do we just keep doing all these things for our God? God always does the "right" thing. We have this choice. But it might be the one that we think we have. We have the choice to just listen to the voice of God or Not. It might even be the choice to just get out of Gods way rather than hindering God

We live as a response to the love that is shown to us. Not because we have to but because we can. Because we are called. Just like Peter jumping out of that boat and walking on water. We just do it. It's this innate response of faith. God within us, the Holy spirit in action. WE see Jesus keep doing these things over and over because Jesus can't help but do them. But for us it's up to us to listen to that instinct of faith, listen to that call to just do it, and jump.

We are the ones revealing God to other people. We are the ones showing how God works in the world. That's why Jesus came as a human being. Came to show the way. In the Old Testament God always shows up as this event with some elemental part infuse, think of Elijah and Gods revelation, Earthquake, Fire, storm and wind, God in the still small voice. God revealed before Moses the burning bush, the miracles that shook the people. Think of creation. We see the events but we can't see God. So God came to us to show us God. And so we do likely. We have been shown God many times in our lives. And now is where we show the revealed God to the world. Now we just do it. We don't over think it, we don't worry about what we have and don't. We take our 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish and we feed the people, we heal with the gifts we have been given, we take that step out of the safety of what we think know and embrace our God. We just do it.

We just step out in faith, we just feel this spark of faith and let in flow, we just let the spirit move through us. And we will watch the world change around us. We will feed the thousands and the millions and the billions, we will heal the sick and seek out the lost, we will step out body in faith. Just because Christ is our eternal ever present Lord. Amen.