

# MIRACLES | Blessed and Broken

Rob Rogers

April 18, 2021

---

## Introduction

VIDEO—Watch online to Randy Tate’s miraculous testimony.

In our series called *Miracles* we’re looking at the many miracles Jesus performed and hearing stories from individuals in our Grace Chapel family where the Divine intervened in impossible situations and turned them into miracles.

**Our hope is that through these miracle stories, God will build and stretch your faith.**

Today we’re going to talk about a very famous miracle, recorded in Mark 6.

### Mark 6:30–43

Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, **“Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”** For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves. But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him. And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, **“This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat.”** But He answered and said to them, **“You give them something to eat.”** And they said to Him, **“Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?”** But He said to them, **“How many loaves do you have? Go and see.”** And when they found out they said, **“Five, and two fish.”** Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all. So they all ate and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish.

**SCARCITY  
INADEQUACY  
THE BLESSING OF BROKENNESS**

---

## Scarcity

The passage begins by telling us that the disciples had been working really hard, meeting needs and teaching people. They came back to Jesus to report everything they’d done, and they were hungry and tired. Jesus knew this, and He took them away from the crowds to find rest.

They crossed the Sea of Galilee and discovered about 5,000 men—if you also include their families, that number increases to about 15,000–20,000 people—had followed them to the other side of the sea.

Can you imagine?

It's sort of like that moment as a parent when you finally sit down to rest for two seconds, and your kids, who are on the other side of the house, somehow sense it and suddenly appear out of nowhere with a list of immediate demands.

Who else has lost all sense proportion in that moment? *"Please just let me rest my eyes for two minutes. I'll do whatever you want! Fine, I'll put a roller coaster in the backyard! I don't care... just let me sit here for two seconds!"*

Now imagine having 20,000 people chasing you down when all you want is some rest, peace, and quiet.

### **Mark 6:34–36**

And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat."

- The disciples were hungry and tired, and Jesus has been talking for a long time, teaching them many things. They were probably thinking, "When is He going to be done!? Let's wrap this up!"
- So the disciples went to Jesus and did what many do when they want something: lay the blame and excuse on someone else. *"Jesus, the people are hungry . . ."*

### **Mark 6:37a**

But He answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat."

- Jesus saw right through what the disciples were doing.
- He responded by saying, in essence, "Oh, they're hungry, huh? Okay, you feed them. You do it."

**Application**—When we face a problem or obstacle, we often go to God and say, "God, do something about that! God, do something about this! God, change these circumstances! God, speak to that person!" A lot of times we fail to realize that ***we are often the answer to our own prayers.***

### **Mark 6:37b**

And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?"

- In response to Jesus, the disciples did exactly what the man at the pool of Bethesda did (week 2 of the Miracle series). They came up with excuses.
  - "Sorry, Jesus, I forgot to pack lunch for 20,000 people."
  - "We don't have near enough money to give 20,000 people something to eat."

**Application**—The disciples said exactly what we say when we face a daunting task or situation:

- I'm not **qualified** enough
- I'm not **wealthy** enough
- I'm not **educated** enough
- I'm not **strong** enough
- I'm not **connected** enough
- I'm not **mature** enough
- I'm not **courageous** enough
- I'm too **old** to start this
- I'm too **young** lead that

**We focus on all of the things we don't have  
to justify our complacency and inaction.  
We have a scarcity mindset  
even though we serve a God of abundance.**

**Question**—Do you remember what Moses said to God in the burning bush when God called him to confront Pharaoh?

**Exodus 4:1–13**

Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The Lord has not appeared to you.’” So the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.” And He said, “Cast it on the ground.” So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail” (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), “that they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.” Furthermore the Lord said to him, “Now put your hand in your bosom.” And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow. And He said, “Put your hand in your bosom again.” So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh. “Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land.” Then Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” So the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.” But he said, “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.”

- Moses: “God, I’m not eloquent. I have a stutter!”
- God: “**Moses, I had no idea! Why didn’t somebody tell Me!? What am I going to do!?**”

**When we give God our excuses,  
we reveal how little faith we have  
and expose the depth of our pride.  
We say that our limitations are greater than His power.**

Moses did it.  
The disciples did it.  
We do it, too.

---

## **Inadequacy**

**Mark 6:38**

But He said to them, “**How many loaves do you have? Go and see.**”

- Jesus asked the disciples to take account of what was in their midst. What is here already? What *do* you have?
- Jesus says, in effect, “Don’t tell me about what you don’t have enough of. Tell me what you *do* have.”

So the disciples go and take account. Surely with 15,000–20,000 people, someone other than the little boy in our story had some food.

**Often times we think that because we don't have *everything* to solve the problem, we can't do *anything*.**

But God says, "*Bring Me something, and watch what I can do!*"

**Many of us are so focused on what we don't have  
that we allow it to hold us back  
from doing something with what we do have.**

**Application**—Jesus is asking today, "What do you have? Take account! Go and see!" If you stop telling God what you don't have and start bringing God what you do have, He just might begin to work miracles in your midst!

**INTERESTING**—This one little boy, who wasn't even counted among the 5,000 in the text, stepped forward and did the one thing that actually counted. That's what God does! **He takes what other people discount and uses it to do something that does count.**

### **Matthew 18:3**

... and said, "**Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.**"

### **Mark 6:38b**

And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish."

- I imagine Peter coming back to Jesus saying, "I told you, Jesus. I told you there wouldn't be enough."
- Jesus may have said, "Peter, in your own power, you've found five loaves and two fish. Remember that. Remember how little you brought to the table while you watch what I do."

**Application**—Many of us take credit for our success. We look back and say, "Look what I did. Look how great I am! Look how hard I worked. Look how much I sacrificed." The truth is, without God's breath and blessing, we all have only five loaves and two fish. ***But impossible situations are where God thrives. Our limits are where He shows up, because it's in our inadequacy that He's most glorified.***

### **Mark 6:39–41**

Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all.

- John's account says that Jesus **gave thanks**.
- Jesus gave thanks for what wasn't enough—what wasn't even close to enough.

**While we curse what's not enough, Jesus blesses it.  
While we complain about our lack, Jesus gives thanks for it.  
While we grumble about what we don't have,  
Jesus offers gratitude for what we do have.**

## Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

- We don't do this well. Instead, we think on the things we hate. We think on the things we fear. We meditate not on what is praiseworthy but on the house we hate, the job we hate, the routine we hate, the boss we hate . . .
- Instead, we should be saying, "God, this might not be the house we're in forever, but I thank you that I have a roof over my head." "God, this might not be the job I have forever, but I'm giving thanks that You've provided for me in this way and in this season."
- We curse the very things God has blessed us with, but God takes what isn't enough and blesses it!

**Where we see the impossible, God sees potential.**

**Where we see inadequacy, God sees possibility.**

**Where we see insufficiency, God sees the perfect opportunity to show His abundance.**

---

## The Blessing of Brokenness

### Mark 6:41–42

And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all. So they all ate and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish.

- Jesus blessed the bread and then He broke it. But often we can't really be blessed until after we've been broken.

### Matthew 5:3

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

- The poor in spirit—the broken and needy—are the ones who realize they have no ability in themselves to earn favor with God. They are those who've come to the end of themselves.
- If that's you, God says you're blessed, because when you reach the end of yourself, that's where God does His best work.

**Personal**—In my own story it's always been in my deepest moments of despair that God has shown up. When I was addicted, discounted, rehabilitated, and relapsed, when I was an absolute disaster, a broken mess of a human being, God saw me. I can just imagine Him looking on me and saying to the rest of the Trinity, "*That guy is an absolute disaster. What do you say we do something miraculous with him?*" Seventeen years later, my confidence is not in accomplishment or gifting. My confidence is not in ability, in a title, or in a position. My confidence is in the fact that when I was nobody, He chose me, rescued me, welcomed me in, cleaned me up, and gave me a place to belong and a purpose to live out.

### 1 Corinthians 1:27

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

- God loves to take what is not enough and what makes no sense to the world and do the miraculous.

In our story, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it. And then what happened?

**He multiplied it.**

15,000–20,000 people ate and were satisfied.  
And there were leftovers.

**Not only did God meet the need, He provided abundantly more than anyone could have asked or imagined (Ephesians 3:20–21).**

**Questions—**

- How many of us are withholding what we think isn't enough from the God Who can make it more than enough?
- How many are constantly navigating life from a perspective of scarcity?
- How many are trying to keep what little we have for ourselves, when God is asking us to bring what we have to Him?

Before the bread was multiplied, it had to be broken. Many of us want the miracle, but we don't want to be broken first.

*“Whenever God means to make a man great, He always breaks him in pieces first.”*  
—Charles Spurgeon<sup>1</sup>

**How do we gain the courage to be broken?**

**John 6:35**

Then Jesus declared, *“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”*

- Not only were loaves broken in this story, but the One Who is the Bread of Life was also broken for us.
- Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, went through the breaking for us in His suffering, torture, and crucifixion, and in the abandonment He endured from His Father while He was on the cross.

**The breaking Jesus suffered in His crucifixion led—in His resurrection and ascension—to the most daring, courageous rescue the world has ever known.**

---

**Conclusion**

If Christ endured that breaking for you, what can't you endure, not just for Him, but also **with** Him?

Your greatest ministry will always come out of your deepest wounds.

Your greatest contribution to the world will always come out of the depths of your brokenness.

**If you'll surrender to the breaking, the miracle of multiplication is waiting on the other side.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Spurgeon, Charles. *David's Prayer*. Editora Oxigênio, 2015.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. Do you find it easier to focus on what you don't have or on what you do have? What sorts of excuses do you make out of a scarcity mindset? How can making excuses to God reveal shallow faith and deep pride?
2. Reflect and take account of what you do have to offer to God for His blessing and multiplication.
3. Discuss: God takes what other people discount and uses it to do something that does count.
4. How does the disciples' response to the five loaves and two fish differ from Jesus's response? What can we learn from Jesus's response?
5. Discuss: God loves to take what is not enough and what makes no sense to the world and do the miraculous.
6. What is the blessing of brokenness? How do we gain the courage to be broken?

# NOTES