

Dear congregation,

Have you ever felt like the Lord was asking you to do something that you felt was impossible?

You knew that the Lord who guides all things had led you into this particular situation, but the problem, the difficulty, the hindrance was such that you said to yourself, there's no way.

This is how the disciples must have felt in the words of our text.

When He, on this particular occasion, with 5,000 plus people around, said, Give ye them to eat.

How were they to fill the mouths and the stomachs of thousands of people? There seemed to be no way at all. And so it is that the Lord can place things before us that seem like an Everest, that we in no way can get to the other side of. And yet He does these things in order to turn us out of ourselves, to find everything in Him as these disciples had to learn, and we as well.

So we hope to see, with the Lord's help, from the passage read in your hearing, Mark 6, v31-44. At this time, we will read only verse 37.

He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat.

And they say unto Him, Shall we go and buy 200 penny worth of bread and give them to eat?

Our theme looking to the Lord today is

Christ's glory in the feeding of the 5,000.

We'll see, first of all, an uncovering challenge.

secondly, a faith-provoking instruction.

And thirdly and lastly, an all-sufficient Savior.

Christ's glory in the feeding of the 5,000. An uncovering challenge. A faith-provoking instruction.

And an all-sufficient Savior.

Well, this miracle that is before us in our text passage today is recorded in all four Gospels. That is a rare thing for the healing miracles of the Lord Jesus.

Some are recorded in one or two or maybe three. But this is recorded in all four Gospels.

It's happening around the time of the Passover, as you can read in John 6, verse 4. So this was a busy season for the Lord and for His disciples.

In fact, if you read in the context, the Lord had sent the disciples two by two throughout the whole land on a kind of internship, to preach, to teach, and to do healing miracles. And they had blanketed the country. And they had seen the power of God.

And they'd also seen the rejection of people. It had been a busy season. And also, Herod had killed John the Baptist.

And just before our text, the disciples told the Lord Jesus about this. And in the backdrop of all these things, the Lord Jesus turns to His disciples and says,

Come apart and rest. It's a time to reflect. It's a time to find a measure of rest. And so, Jesus with the disciples, they board this boat and they cross the Sea of Galilee to the other side, the more deserted area on the east side of the Sea of Galilee. However, the people who are there on the west side, they realize what the Lord is doing.

It's about five miles to cross the Sea of Galilee, if you go straight by boat. It's about ten miles if you were to go, as the people do, north of the Sea of Galilee. And so they go.

When Jesus and His disciples reach the other side, there the people are already coming. We read in our text passage that the Lord Jesus sees all this. And His heart is moved with compassion for the multitudes.

He sees them as sheep without a shepherd. They are in need of care. They are in need of guidance, spiritual direction, shepherding.

And so the Lord Jesus, He begins to teach them. Notice that. His compassionate heart, it finds that these people's deepest need is for instruction in the Kingdom.

In how to live in these brief moments here, between the cradle and the grave in such a way that we can appear, not in our own righteousness, which is but filthy rags, but dressed in the righteousness of the Kingdom, the righteousness of Jesus Christ. And it's that which His compassionate heart overflows for, to hold out before these people.

I wonder, congregation, if that lives in your heart.

If you know something of that. If you have been a recipient yourself of the compassionate mercies of the Lord Jesus instructing you in the things that belong to this life and a better. To such an extent that you also share that same compassionate outlook, on the multitudes all around us. Who are heading to an endless eternity as sheep without a shepherd.

So bereft, many of them, of the very basic things that concern this life and the life to come.

Well, the disciples must have seen this in their Lord and Master.

This compassionate heart that was just moved, despite what the Lord had said regarding rest. And this may have been a disappointment to them.

Here they thought they were getting a break. Something of what we would relate to as a vacation maybe. Just however brief that may have been.

It seems to evaporate here just so very quickly.

Maybe you've had that in your own experience that you were getting ready for a vacation. You thought to yourself, I really need this. The family needs this. My wife needs this. And all of a sudden one of the children gets very sick and you have to go to the emergency.

And the vacation evaporates. Or something like that, maybe has happened to you in your life. And you know that feeling, don't you? A kind of disappointment and feeling let down.

You had anticipated this and now it's gone.

Well, the Lord Jesus instructs these thousands of people.

By the way, the Bible says there were 5,000 men. And we have every reason to expect that there would be just as many women. Pretty much. And maybe even children.

So we could have had up to 10,000 or maybe even 12,000. 15,000 people. Just as far as the eye could see there were just souls.

The disciples bear with this for a number of hours likely. Until they see the sun kind of starting to set in the horizon. The way I picture it is about 3 o'clock, 4 o'clock.

The sun is kind of midway on the horizon. And they look around and they see these thousands of people here. And they realize this is a deserted place.

What that means, children is, it's not a desert like you might think of it. Like a sandy desert. Like the Sahara Desert. it's just uninhabited. There's no shops.

There's no villages. There's not normal life where you could go and buy things. No, it's pretty deserted.

And so they start coming to the Lord Jesus and saying, Lord, it's starting to get, you know, the end of the day. There's no food here. There's no places to supply these people.

Send them away. Send these people away. It's time.

Send them away. And they didn't just say it once.

The word in the Greek makes clear that they did this again and again and again. The way I picture it is that maybe Peter, who is always first, he comes to the Lord Jesus and whispers in his ear, Lord, it's getting late. Send them away.

When the Lord Jesus continues, someone else comes and tells the Lord the same thing. It happens repeatedly. These disciples are anxious because they see a problem on the horizon of all these hungry people and no food at all.

Send them away. Send them away.

We can get to that place in life too when we are in difficult situations, and so overwhelmed by all the things that come our way.

We're very much like the disciples. We say to the Lord, Lord, not now. Lord, please send these problems away, these difficulties, these hungry mouths, these needy cases.

Lord, send them away. There's a point at which all of us can't handle this anymore.

Parents, of course, you'd never want your children sent away, but don't you ever find yourself saying with all the needs, with all the questions, with all the problems, with all the

difficulties, saying something like this to the Lord, Lord, when's this going to stop? It's too much.

I can't bear this heavy burden. Or perhaps in the office of elder and deacon. I trust that the Lord is giving strength, but it can happen.

You get to be so overwhelmed that really despite how you love the Lord and love His church and love the ministry, yet it just, as in the case of the disciples, it's too much. And you may be tempted to say, Lord, another problem? Another marriage difficulty? Another discipline case? Lord, I can't handle it. Send it away.

Especially when it comes to cross providences in our life, difficulties that we don't wish, those things that we were expecting rest, we were expecting a respite. And instead of that, there's more. And there's more.

And our shoulders are already so very tired. And more seems to be placed on it. And we look out over the horizon and we see the sun setting.

We see darkness coming, so to speak. And we say to the Lord, Lord, send them away. Send them away.

These problems, were not sufficient for this, at all. And indeed, you're not. That much is true.

You're not sufficient for these things in and of yourselves. But it's remarkable that the Lord Jesus says to the disciples, He turns to them as they are coming at Him with this cry, send them away. He looks at them and He says, You give them to eat.

You, Peter. You, James. You, Thomas.

You, Bartholomew. You give them to eat. And when you compare the other Gospels with this, especially Matthew, the Lord Jesus actually adds something to that.

He says this. He says they need not depart. The disciples had said send them away, but Jesus counters that and He says they don't need to go.

They don't need to be sent away. They need not depart. Even that, congregation, is just a Gospel sermon in itself, isn't it? The Lord Jesus, as He looks out over the mass of needy humanity, it's in His heart.

My dear unconverted friend, it's in His heart to say you don't need to go. You don't need to depart. It doesn't need to be that way.

Do you hear that?

Indeed, in the great day of days, if you persist as you are, never having a true need for the Lord. Indeed, the most awful words that you can expect to hear if you remain as you are is depart from me. You cursed into everlasting darkness.

But yet in the Gospel, my friend, even today, the Lord is saying you need not depart. You don't need to go out into this night all by yourself, unprovided for, unsupplied, unaided, unsaved. You need not depart.

That's what's in the heart of the Saviour, for sinners still today. And He says to His people, He says to His disciples, give them to eat. Look at those mouths.

Look at those hungry stomachs. You. You've been watching me.

You've seen my compassionate heart. And now I'm telling you, you give them to eat. Of course, the disciples are extremely baffled.

Whatever is the Lord saying? We don't have the resources. We don't have money enough to buy 200 denarii. That's a day wage.

We couldn't supply these people with the beginning of a meal. What is the Lord saying here? You know, congregation, maybe it's not in this particular way, but there are things that the Lord demands from us that do baffle us. Aren't there many things that the Lord calls us to, that we just find ourselves resourceless for? I can't do that.

Parents, train up your children in the way that they should go. And all the other obligations that rest upon you as parents, of these never-dying souls placed in your care. You hold them those first hours and days that they're born and you look into those eyes and you realize this child has a never-dying soul.

And the Lord says, give them to eat. Not just physically, but spiritually. Provide for them.

And if it's right, you turn back to the Lord and you say, how can I? There's no way. Or as a husband in marriage, that you have to lead your wife in the things of God. You have to be a Christ-like example.

And you don't find it in yourself. You don't have it. And the Lord says, you,

give your wife to eat, spiritually.

You have food to serve up.

Or elders, deacons, as you go from house to house, as you teach catechism, Sunday school, congregation as you seek to evangelize in your families that work or in the neighborhoods, wherever life brings you and there it's ringing in your ears, give them to eat.

These hungry souls, never-dying souls, don't you have something for them? You give them to eat.

And you don't have it. Let's be honest, you don't. I mean, you try and you say some things and you can maybe go on a little bit, but unless you have divine resources, you run out so quickly, don't you?

And how about for yourself? How about when the Lord says to you and to me as He does in Ezekiel 18 v. 31, make you a new heart and a new spirit.

Maybe you didn't know that that verse was in the Bible. Make you a new heart and a new spirit.

I thought we had to pray for a new heart.

Yes. But the Lord holds this before you and He says, make for yourself a new heart. Make for yourself a new spirit.

Because your existing heart is an old heart. It's an heart of stone. And you can't live like that and you certainly can't die like that.

Make yourself a new heart. And there you stand with that command of the Lord. That precept of the Lord.

Make yourself a new heart. Or even when the Lord says, repent and believe. You try that sometimes.

And you say, Lord, I can't give that to Myself. I try. I get a certain way with that, but I can't of Myself.

There's the Lord's command. And the Lord presses this upon you. Bring forth fruits.

Fruits worthy of repentance. Meat for repentance. And those are these things that the Lord presses down upon us.

Well, what is He doing? He's uncovering us to our deficiency, to our lack, to our need, isn't He? In order that with empty hands we come to Him and say, Lord, I've tried and Lord, I've failed and I just don't have it. I can't even start making for Myself a new heart, a new spirit. I can't start with this repentance, with this faith, but Lord, if Thou art asking this of me, if Thou art saying, Be ye holy, for I am holy, then all I can do is come and lie before Thee and reach out my beggar's hands and say, Lord, as Augustine said, give what Thou commandest and then command what Thou wilt.

Give what Thou commandest, and then command what Thou will. Do you understand that? Has it been your experience in life, for yourself, for your soul, all the responsibility that is placed upon you, your family, with the church, with things that are entrusted to you, problems, difficulties, confusing providences, to bring them to the Lord? To bring them back to the Lord and say, Lord, this is Thy Word. Give them to eat.

I can't, Lord. But if there's a way, then show that way. For Thou are the all-sufficient God.

You see, congregation, if these disciples had only just thought back a little bit, what happened, children, in the first miracle of the Lord Jesus when they ran out of wine at that wedding? Do you remember what the Lord Jesus did? He turned the water into wine. I mean, here was this big lack of all these people. And it was quite a problem, especially then.

And the Lord supplied miraculously. And He showed His glory in that. Or if people would just think back to the Old Testament.

Children, do you remember a story in the Bible where the people had no food? And it wasn't just thousands of people. It was millions of people. And there they were in a desert place, a real desert. And all of a sudden, they walked out of their tents. And what did they see on the ground? They didn't know what to call it, so they called it manna. Which means, what is this?

Manna.

And what had happened? The Lord had rained down manna in the night. And He fed millions of people. He spread a table in the wilderness.

And they could all eat until their hearts and until their stomachs were full. You see, congregation, do you see the value of spiritual memory? If only we remembered what the Lord has done in the past. We're so given to amnesia.

We're so given to forgetfulness. Later on, we'll read about the disciples how they didn't remember the loaves. Even though they just held them a few days before, they held them in their hand. The same with ourselves. We forget the wonders of God's hand. And that's why it's important to remember the works of the Lord.

This is what Asaph says in one of the Psalms. He says, I will remember the works of the Lord. I will meditate on all His doings.

And how important that is. Also to remember the years in which God showed favor. And has the Lord changed? Is the Lord now limited when in the past He wasn't limited? No, perish that thought. How we need that spiritual memory. And ought we not to encourage one another, people of God, with that as well. Remember what the Lord did in the past.

How He provided a table in the wilderness. So undeserved. So amazing.

We didn't expect it. We were murmuring. We were complaining.

And yet the Lord one-sidedly, He helped. He provided. And we were astounded.

We couldn't even contain it. And we were like those who dreamed and we said the Lord has done great things for us. We are glad, but we wake up the next morning or some weeks later and we've forgotten the mercies of the Lord.

Shall we not encourage each other to remember the works of the Lord? And shall we not encourage one another to remember the promises of the Lord? Because His works are one thing. In the past, indeed, they're very encouraging. And I don't take away what I just said.

But you know, the promises of God, those are the things from out of which the people of God need to live. They need to trade with the promises of God. They need to take the promises of the Lord back to Him.

And they need to say, Lord, Thou has said, I will abundantly provide for Zion's good. The Lord has said, I will supply her poor with bread. O Lord, do it then.

Do it even now. And isn't that the art of prayers, to take our need to the promises of God and say, Lord, fulfill Thine own promises in this, my need. Just like in those days of famine and the days of Joseph when there they were.

People's barns were empty. Their sacks were empty. Go to Joseph.

Go to Joseph. With all your need, and he'll never run out. And so it is with the greater than Joseph. The eyes of all wait upon Thee and Thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest Thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. If only the disciples and we with them would remember what the Lord said in Psalm 81, open Thy mouth wide and I will fill it.

Fill it. That's what He says.

Well, congregation, this is certainly an uncovering challenge.

Song 431v3.6

But notice what happens next in our second point, of faith-provoking instruction. The disciples take stock of the situation. Comparing Gospel with Gospel, we find out that Andrew comes with a report.

There's a boy who has a lunch. Five barley loaves and two fish. Now, barley loaves, barley was the food of the poor.

It wasn't anything to write home about. It wasn't what kings would eat. Not at all.

It was dry. It was crusty. Barley loaves were the food of the poor.

And the fish that this boy had, they would have fish with it because fish would at least give it some taste. So this boy, this is how I picture it, his mom, his dad has packed him a lunch because he wants to go with the crowd to see this Jesus. And they say, here, here's a few hard, flat cakes of barley loaves and two fish.

And as the disciples are going around mid-afternoon there, in these fields there outside the lake, the Sea of Galilee, this boy hears they need some food. They're looking for some food. And he has some food.

Can this be of any use for you, sir? Five loaves here. Two fish. Take them.

Whatever you need. They're yours. What an amazing thing.

The Lord uses the base things of this world. The things that are despised. The things that don't matter in the eyes of men.

The things we overlook. And here it's a boy, a lad, he's called in John, A young boy.

It's as if the Lord is putting the disciples to shame and saying, you know, you're not looking close enough. You're not looking at the children. You're not looking there where I have resources that it takes the mind and the heart of a child to say, here, you use this.

You have this. Maybe this will be of use to you. You know, if only we had more of that spirit.

That childlike posture with respect to the Lord. Kind of like that maid of Naaman who says, if only my Master were in Israel, there's a prophet there. I'm sure he could heal my Master.

And the Lord rides, as it were, on the words of that little girl. And here he rides on this little lunch of this boy who offers it freely for the services of the Lord. Children, the Lord doesn't despise your prayer.

He doesn't despise what you wish Him to use. No matter how small. Don't let anyone tell you it's insignificant.

Maybe You save a little bit of money and you put it in the collection bag and you pray, God, use this for Thy kingdom, for Thy glory, for Thy honor. That's what the Lord loves.

You see, congregation, what happens here in our passage, way before the Lord will feed the multitudes is He will evoke faith and bring into exercise the faith of His disciples.

And He does this by focusing His disciples on Himself. Making them to listen to Him. To look to Him.

To come to Him with their needs. And to spread their needs before Him. And to wait upon His next word.

And isn't that what faith is? It's just with all our need, with all our lack, with all our want, with all our ignorance, to simply lie before the Lord and say, Lord, tell me the next thing to do. As a servant looks to the hand of his master and a maiden to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are upon the Lord. Till He have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O God. Are you in a situation just now where you are utterly ignorant of the next step? You know what God commands you to do, but you've tried everything and you're out of resources and it's deficiency from your side. You don't have what it takes.

Oh, to cry to the Lord. To open your empty hands before Him. And say, Lord, I don't have it. I'll never have it. But I know from Thy Word that Thou are the all-sufficient God.

You know, when King Jehoshaphat was besieged by armies, they were threatening him and he didn't have what it took to stand up against them at all.

This is what he says to the Lord. He says, we know not what to do, but our eye is upon Thee. We don't know what to do, but our eye is upon the Lord.

You know, when that is true of you, then you are in the right place because the Lord loves it. And in all our needs and all our wants, we look to Him. And we look with expectation.

We look with humility because we don't have it. We've run out of resources. But His free giving has only begun.

My friend, is that you, even now, to wait upon the Lord, to be of good courage and know and believe, even if it is with trepidation and maybe with much unbelief, to yet know that He will provide for full salvation and in everything that you need.

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

And the Lord would also have His people sit in an orderly way before Him. Notice how He instructs His disciples when they come with those five loaves and two fish. He says, have the crowd, have the people sit down in ranks by hundreds and by fifties.

In other words, the Lord Jesus doesn't want just this massive chaos here of just thousands of people just running on top of each other trying to get some of this bread He's going to multiply. No, He's going to work in a very orderly fashion. So He says, make these thousands of people sit down in companies.

Fifty here, fifty there, hundred over there. Just all in order. And this word in the original, in ranks, literally means in garden like plot style.

Now, if you're a gardener and you love to work in your garden come spring and throughout the summer and then in the harvest season, you don't just take the seeds and strew them all together and throw them into the plot. No, you plant rows of beans over here. You plant rows of corn over here. And you think it all through. And it's very orderly. And that helps the growth.

It helps the weeding. It helps you walking through, this garden bed. And it helps the harvesting. And the Lord would have His people in an orderly fashion. The Lord loves order. He says to His church, let all things be done decently and in order.

And this is exactly what He wants His people to do. So the twelve disciples, they go among the people and they say, count off and sit down orderly fashion 50, 50, 50 and so on. With probably aisles in between because the disciples would have to move through those aisles later on.

And of course in these days, you didn't have drones, but children, if you had a drone in those days and you could fly over top of those people, you would have seen everything like a garden plot. Just so beautifully organized. Just beautiful.

That whole mountainside there. Just so beautifully organized. And, the Lord was getting these people ready for this miracle.

He was getting them to expect something. So there they would sit, like you're sitting right now, all in order. And that's good.

And so too on this mountainside, the people would sit in order. No one out of order. They'd sit there and they'd all focus on the Lord Jesus.

And they'd sit there, wondering, what's next? You see, He was harnessing their attention. He was focusing their attention. There they would sit.

What's next? We're all sitting here in ranks, in groups. What's going to happen next? The Lord was fostering in their hearts and souls expectation. Do you have expectation? Is that still a word that we know? Is it still a word that we use?

When we start the service we pray "our help and only expectation is in the name of God."

Do you still expect something from the Lord? Is there still expectation in the congregation of Carterton for the Lord, for His work, for His grace, for His free salvation to be exercised upon your soul and the souls of your children and the souls of all that wait upon Him? Oh, that we would not be a people in whom expectation would leave. Because it's so vital to faith that we would look to the Lord and expect Him to answer, to minister in our needs as He alone can

and as the Lord was provoking not only this humility and this expectation, He was also instructing them in another way because you know what He did, children? As they were all sitting there in front of Him in all their rows and in all the orderliness of the moment, you know what the Lord Jesus did? It says in verse 41 that He looked up to heaven.

So at a certain moment as they were all gathered there, the Lord Jesus, He turned His gaze from off of the food, from off of the people, and He looked up into heaven. And people saw it. They could see His head, His eyes raised up to heaven.

The Lord Jesus Christ, though He was the Son of God, He would not break the bread. He would not have the people partake of the food without leading them in prayer and showing them in those very moments that even He as the Son of God, as their Chief Prophet, Priest, and King, that He was looking to His Father. That He was delighting in His Father.

That He was receiving everything from His Father. And these people could see it visibly there. Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Parents, teach your children to look up. Elders, deacons, all those in responsible positions. May we truly, but may we also teach others to look up.

May we follow the gaze of our Lord Jesus Christ as He, yes, even He looks up to Him from Whom all help can come. And He blesses the food. That's what it says next.

He blesses the food. He sanctifies the food. It wasn't enough that it just simply left His hands, but He shows us that we should receive everything with prayer and with the Word and He blesses it. And only then, under His hands, as He takes this bread, this barley loaf, and He starts breaking it, and breaking it, and giving it to the disciples, under His hands, the bread never diminishes. Never decreases. And a miracle is taking place that only God can do.

This is none other than the Son of God in our nature. The One who called the world into being. Who put the stars in the firmament.

Who said, let there be light. Who said, let the grass appear and the dry land appear. And with the Word of His power, He made it all happen.

So to hear all these thousands of people, they were all focused on none other than the Son of God doing this remarkable miracle. Testifying of how great and glorious He is. I wonder, congregation, is our focus on Him? Are we looking to Him? Do we see in Him everything that our souls could ever need? Because that's what He's inviting us to do.

That's what He's directing us to do. Even before He will feed their bodies, we're teaching their souls to look upward to God to supply every need. And as He's done that, it's almost as if even if He didn't do any miracle at all, which of course is impossible, He would and He does.

But in a certain sense, faith has enough. Because even though the fig tree doesn't blossom, nor there be fruit on the vine, even if the barns are empty, and even if the need continues, you know this, don't you, people of God? when you're focused on God, when He is your portion, when you can say with the psalmist, the Lord is my portion, therefore will I hope in Him. Then in a certain sense, it matters not what happens next.

Because then God is the all-sufficient God. And Christ is more than enough. And whatever He determines to do, I wait upon Him.

My soul waiteth upon the Lord. For my expectation is from Him. And then I'm satisfied.

Already in God. Even though nothing changes in my circumstances. Even if I don't have what I feel I need for my children or for the church or for the world.

But when my eyes are focused on Him, then I have perfect peace. Thou wilt keep Him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed upon Thee. Because He trusts in me.

Trust in the Lord. From now on and forevermore.

Oh Congregation, the Lord is an all-sufficient provider.

Because under His hands, indeed, this poor boy's lunch multiplies and grows. What an amazing thing that was. And these disciples who a few minutes before they had said to the Lord, send them away.

What a convicting thing this must have been. If they had succeeded in having the Lord send these people away, they would have missed the miracle. They would have missed all that the Lord was going to do.

And I think of it this way. And it's just my own mind. But I think you can relate.

I think as Peter is holding that bread and he's giving it to these people. He's thinking to what the Lord has said. Come apart and rest a while.

And he thinks to himself, you know, I saw that rest disappearing with all these people. I thought of them as rest robbers. Now I see that the Lord had designed to give a rest that was far greater than anything that I could imagine.

He can do far abundantly above what we can think or even imagine. And it's as if He's holding in His hands something that, how can this be? He's embracing, as it were, this rest, this supply. And it feeds Him and it feeds all these people.

And you know when that happens in your life, then you're ashamed of your unbelief. How could I have been so hard-hearted? How could I have been so unbelieving? How could I have ever asked the Lord to send them away? And as these people and the disciples themselves take this bread and this fish and they can taste and see that the Lord is good. That's what the psalmist said.

This Lord Jesus Christ is truly good. He's a good shepherd. He provides all my needs.

And He is the bread of life, which if a man eat, he shall never hunger. He shall never thirst. He that believeth on Me, the Lord Jesus says in John 6, He has eternal life.

And so I ask you today, has this miracle of eating the Son of God by faith, living from out of Him, finding your soul's needs satisfied by no one less than the Lord Jesus Christ, has that taken place? You know, this miracle here, we're all witnesses of it now. Now that we've heard it, it truly happened. And you've heard it.

The infallible Word of God tells you this, but I wonder if you know of that miracle of tasting that the Lord is good, feeding on Him with all your sin and with all your shame, with all your lack, with all your unbelief left to yourself.

You know, the Lord multiplied this bread and this fish so much that there was leftovers. You say to yourself, why did the Lord do that? Notice how He tells His disciples, go get the leftovers.

Nothing should be lost. And so these disciples gather the leftovers and they each have a basket with leftovers. And it's as if the Lord is saying to them as they hold each of them a basket, it's as if He's pressing up against them, why did you not believe My Word? Why didn't you look to Me sooner? And these baskets that they would carry around for a couple of days, They were reminders that here with them, was none other than the Son of God who can furnish a table in the wilderness. My friend, are you in a desert moment of your life?

It seems like you're lacking the first thing, perhaps spiritually. Your soul feels parched.

You've had days in which you've feasted on Christ and the Gospel. You remember very well that first time or some other time when that invitation came,

ho, everyone that thirsts, come to the waters. And your mouth drank in the grace, the mercy of God.

But now, you're in a deserted place. You're in a wilderness. My friend, the Lord is right there.

And the Lord is directing your eyes to expect all from Him. And as He looks upward to heaven, He's telling you where you need to look. And He's instructing you.

My body is meat indeed. My blood is drink indeed. On Calvary, I've showed a hungry, a perishing, a needy, a dying world, how it's all in Me.

Come sinner, eat and drink abundantly. It's all with Me. And yes, it's for needy sinners.

These people had nothing to commend of themselves. Do you know that most of them... Think of this. Most of them, the next day, they walk not after the Lord anymore.

And yet, the Lord has supplied this wonder, this amazing wonder. They could have tasted it. They could have been filled with it because it says there that they were all full.

And the Lord knew that in advance. Though most of these people would never have improved this gift, yet the Lord freely gave it. That's how generous.

That's how willing. That's how eager the Lord is to satisfy the hungry soul with Himself.

O friend, will you go this morning where you can feast on the Son of God as a sinner and nothing more, nothing less.

Come, for all things are ready. Taste and see that the Lord is good. His mercy endureth forever.

Amen.