

Sermon Title: **“You give them something to eat”**

Bible: **Matthew 14:13-21**

Where & When: at Gilroy UMC on Sunday, August 2, 2020

Audience: about 25 YouTube Live-streaming viewers

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we are thankful for your presence. We are thankful for your church. We are thankful for your love. We are thankful for your miracles. Please open our eyes to see your people. Please help us to give you five loaves and two fish. Please be with my lips in your love and grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

1. Jesus' Miracles

Today's Gospel of Matthew reading came from the lectionary for the 9th Sunday after Pentecost. Jesus did many miracles in the Bible. Jesus walked on the water. Jesus turned water into wine. Jesus healed the sick. Jesus calmed down the storm. When you read Jesus' miracles in the Bible, in many cases, Jesus did miracles with our faith or our help. Because Jesus was God, Jesus could have done the miracles by himself. However, Jesus asked for our help and looked for our faith first. Many miracles that Jesus did were the work of teamwork. The story of feeding the five thousand is one of the examples.

2. “You give them something to eat”

This story is in all four Gospels, Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:32-44, Luke 9:10-17, and John 6:1-13. All four Gospels mentioned five loaves and two fish and feeding five thousand people. When you read today's scripture, some of you might wonder, “Where is this boy, the boy who

brought five loaves and two fish?" This boy appeared in the Gospel of John, but not in the Gospel of Matthew that we read today. If you have time, I hope you will read all four Gospels. It will be interesting reading to note the differences, and to discover each Gospel's focus.

Among many miracles of Jesus, I like the story of feeding the five thousand. You might like this story because of the number of five thousand people. It could actually represent five thousand families, because women and children were not normally counted at that time. You might like this story, because of the miracles coming from five loaves and two fish. How could they feed five thousand with only five loaves and two fish? Without Jesus' miracle, it would not be possible. I like this story, because of Jesus' saying, "You give them something to eat." We have something to give others already. God uses what we have for God's kingdom. Even if what we have is small, like five loaves and two fish, God sees our potential, invites us, or asks us to help with God's miracle. God is waiting for us to do God's miracle together.

3. He blessed and broke the loaves

When the disciples brought him the five loaves and two fish, Jesus blessed and broke the loaves. Jesus and the disciples fed five thousand families. When we respond to God's invitation, when we bring what we have to God, God will bless us and what we have. God will use us for those who are hungry, those who are in need, those who need help during this difficult time.

I love this church. Even though we are small, we are the church. We are the disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Like the disciples in today's story, we are the ones in the story of the miracle. We give others something! Even during this time, we do not stop giving something to others. We support St. Joseph's Family Center, Heifer International, the

Navajo COVID-19 Relief Project, and the El Camino Real District Relief Fund. Jesus will bless what we give and pour out God's love and grace on those we help. Jesus will make a miracle with us. We are parts of God's miracles. We will have a communion together. When we bless the bread and break the bread, let us remember Jesus' miracle, and let us remember that we are parts of the miracle!

Today, I want to close with a special prayer that I learned from the church newsletter of our circuit church, Watsonville First United Methodist Church. Our church supported our El Camino Real District COVID-19 Relief Fund. According to my calculation, with our donations, we were able to help about 7 families. This is our part of the miracle. As a connectional church, we--the District--helped 117 families with an average of \$400 per family, not one time, but twice. I learned that there were 14 families in Watsonville First UMC who needed help. Thankfully, Watsonville church is allowing us to use this blessing prayer from their newsletter. We are parts of the miracle! Let us pray.

Closing Prayer

God of all hope, we call on you today, to bless this family who is suffering from the pandemic.

May your Spirit give them a sense of calmness & peace. Grant them your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that nothing will separate us from your love in Jesus Christ. Thank you for the people who have given so generously that this family may receive this check. Bless every member of this family, and keep them safe, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.