



Sermon Outline

5+2=5,000

Matthew 14:13–21, Mark 6:30–44,
Luke 9:12–17, John 6:5–15

COME
And **SEE**
FOUNDATION

The
CHOSEN®



5+2=5,000

This resource helps you tell the story of the Feeding of the 5,000 (see texts listed below). It includes a clip from Season Three, Episode 8, to show to the congregation, a suggested script for setting the scene before you show the clip, and a short sermon outline with main teaching points and pastoral prompts.

Sermon Title: 5+2=5,000

Text: Matthew 14:13–21, Mark 6:30–44, Luke 9:12–17, John 6:5–15

Dominant Thought: You only need to bring what you have and yourself – and watch God multiply it all, many times over.

[Download the Episode Clip](#)

Setting the Scene (suggested script)

Besides the Resurrection, there's only one miracle that's recorded in all four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John: what we traditionally call "The Feeding of the 5,000." And it's this miracle that serves as one of the climactic scenes of the final episode of Season Three of *The Chosen*. I want us to watch it together in just a moment, but let me set the scene just a bit for us. Thousands of people have gathered to listen to Jesus teach all day, and as you would imagine, they're hungry. Trouble is, all they have by way of food is five loaves of bread and two fish humbly offered up by a little boy named Telemachus (note: pronounced 'tell-uh-mock-us', italics for emphasis). And that can't possibly be enough, right?

***If you've never introduced your congregation to *The Chosen*, here is a slightly different script:** The creators, cast, and crew of the television series *The Chosen* can't portray every miracle of Jesus, but they do let us watch *several* play out. While it was surely a challenge to film, it was a given that they were going to show us the miracle we traditionally refer to as "The Feeding of the 5,000." After all, besides the Resurrection, it's the only miracle that's recorded in all four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I want us to watch the miracle unfold in just a moment, but let me...

Sermon Outline

Introduction

*Show the clip from *The Chosen*, using the suggested script above to set the scene.

*After showing the clip, consider reading one of the Gospel accounts on which it's based – Matthew 14:13–21, Mark 6:30–44, Luke 9:12–17, John 6:5–15. You could transition from the showing of the clip to the reading of the text by saying something like: "As I mentioned already, this miracle is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. We've seen the miracle unfold; let's listen to it unfold as well. I'm reading from the Gospel of _____ ..."

*After reading the selected Gospel account, you could transition to the sermon proper with a simple word, like: "There are simple truths tucked away for us in this miracle, and these truths have stood the test of time for God's people."

Sermon Body

I. You only need to bring what you have.

Main Teaching Point: As noted already, this is the only miracle – besides the Resurrection – that's listed in all four Gospel accounts, and all four Gospel accounts make detailed note of the measly meal offered up by one boy that's somehow meant to feed thousands: *just five loaves of bread and two fish*. In the scene we watched together, the little boy, Telemachus, admits he knows it's not much. But Jesus's reply is straight-forward and to the point: "It's enough for me; I can do a lot with this." Tucked away in those words is a simple truth for the little boy, for the disciples, and for us: "You only need to bring what you have." And yet this simple truth isn't a new truth for God's people. The story of Scripture is filled with stories that say to us, "You only need to bring what you have." Moses brings hiccuped speech and a gnarled staff to stare down

Pharaoh. David brings a slingshot and five stones to lay low Goliath. In a scene that has echoes in “The Feeding of the 5,000”, a hungry widow encounters a hungry prophet in Elijah, but she brings with her a pathetic pinch of flour and a splash of oil for bread. It’s the truth of the story we’ve watched and read today, and it’s the truth of the Story overall: You only need to bring what you have.

Pastoral Prompt: At any given moment, we are called to some stretch of work for the kingdom. And when the call comes, we take stock of what we have – a short and simple word or a spiritual gifting that seems so small – and we sheepishly say, “I know it’s not much.” Do we believe, though, that Jesus responds, “It’s enough for me; I can do a lot with this”? What is the short and simple word you have to offer? What is the seemingly small gifting that’s been given you to give in return to your neighbor? Do you believe it is enough? What seems to strike at your belief that it is enough?

II. You only need to bring what you have *and yourself*.

Main Teaching Point: As noted already, besides the Resurrection, this is the only miracle that’s listed in all four Gospel accounts. And while all four Gospel accounts make detailed note of the measly *meal* offered up, in each their own way, they all make note of the *people* involved. All four Gospel accounts, in each their own way, make note of the personal faith and sacrifice that’s involved in this miracle. Consider the little boy. Can you imagine the courage it took for him to come forward? Not only because he was a child among adults, but because he risked embarrassment. It’s not that hard to imagine someone saying, “Really? You think *this* is going to get us anywhere?” But his faith compelled him. And how about the disciples? In more than one account, Jesus says to them, “*You* feed them.” It’s not that hard to imagine one of them saying, “Really? You think *we’re* going to be able to do this?” But their faith compels them to tear the measly meal into tiny pieces, piecemealing it among a handful of baskets that they then carry into the crowds. And really, we need to give a little credit to the thousands of men, women, and children. They could have easily scattered as soon as their stomachs started to roar that day, but they waited. And when they caught wind of the measly meal that would supposedly feed them all? You can easily imagine them saying, “Really? *That’s* going to feed this big of a crowd?” Tucked away in all of this is a simple truth for the little boy, for the disciples, for the sea of people, and for us: “You only need to bring what you have *and yourself*.” Bring your faith with you. And yet this simple truth isn’t a new truth for God’s people. The story of Scripture is filled

with stories that say to us, “You only need to bring what you have and yourself.” Moses brings hiccuped speech and a gnarled staff to stare down Pharaoh – but before even that, he brought himself. “Here am I,” he said in faith. David brings a slingshot and five stones to lay low Goliath – but before even that, he brought himself to the battle, when none in Israel’s army could conjure up even a hint of faith. In that story from the life of Elijah, there was just a pathetic pinch of flour and a splash of oil for bread. But before that, there was simply a widow and a prophet who believed against all hope. It’s the truth of the story we’ve watched and read today, and it’s the truth of the Story overall: You only need to bring what you have *and yourself*.

Pastoral Prompt: While we must bring with us any words and giftings we have, we must also bring along our faith. James tells us that faith without works is dead. What’s also true is that works without faith never have a chance to even live. Earlier you considered what seems to strike at believing your words and giftings are enough. But what seems to strike at your belief in general? What most challenges your faith these days? And how do you fight for your faith to remain?

III. You only need to bring what you have and yourself – and watch God multiply it all, many times over.

Main Teaching Point: Let’s hear this once more: besides the Resurrection, this is the only miracle that’s listed in all four Gospel accounts. And while all four Gospel accounts make detailed note of the measly *meal* and – in each their own way – the people involved, they all place the deepest emphasis on *Jesus*. Surely there were hints of doubt when Jesus indicated *all* would have their fill that day, but it’s not hard to imagine a good number of people saying, “No, really. He’ll do it. He’ll feed us all. Because we are sitting at the feet of the very Son of God. *And we’ve seen him do this sort of thing before.*” The scene from *The Chosen* hints at this prevailing mindset in a fun way: As Jesus starts to set the miracle into motion, one of the disciples says, “This feels familiar.” In Season One of *The Chosen*, this particular disciple – Thomas – was a first-hand witness of the moment Jesus turned water into wine. Tucked away in all of this is a simple truth for the little boy, for the disciples, for the sea of people, and for us: “You only need to bring what you have and yourself – and watch God multiply it all, many times over.” And yet this simple truth isn’t a new truth for God’s people. It “feels familiar” indeed! The story of Scripture is filled with stories that say to us, “You only need to bring what you have and yourself – and watch God multiply it all, many times over.” Moses brings hiccuped speech and a gnarled staff to stare down Pharaoh – and before even that, himself. And the people of Israel

were delivered. David brings a slingshot and five stones to lay low Goliath – but before that, himself. And the giant tumbles. A pinch of flour and a splash of oil is brought to God – and before that, the widow, her son, and Elijah themselves. And there is bread for days on end. It's the truth of the story we've watched and read today, and it's the truth of the Story overall: You only need to bring what you have and yourself – and watch God multiply it all, many times over. Or, to put it a bit differently, here's something from behind-the-scenes at *The Chosen*. In light of this very miracle, the creators, cast, and crew often remind one another that what seems like sketchy math is good math nonetheless: $5+2=5,000$. You bring the loaves and fish. You bring *yourselves*. And God will multiply it all in ways you never could have imagined.

Pastoral Prompt: The truth is, it is hard to imagine how God will multiply our simple words and small giftings – how he will make something stunning out of our meager faith. Instead of looking ahead, maybe the key is to look back. Can you recall a work you were called to in the past, and in answering the call, you knew you had so little to bring to the table, but you answered the call nonetheless? How did God multiply it in ways you never could have imagined?

Conclusion

*John's account explores what happens in the wake of the miracle – namely, that the crowd seems to desire only *food* from Jesus. And while Jesus was quite happy to feed them, he points to the reality that what he has given them is a food that will not last. Above all needs, they need *him*. And he stuns them silent with the invitation for them to eat of his flesh and drink of his blood. We have the advantage now of knowing what he meant. He seeks to answer the cry of the soul and not just that of the stomach. He seeks to save by way of his death, burial, and resurrection. And alongside this, we even know now that he is setting the stage of the setting into motion the beautiful discipline of celebrating the Lord's Supper. As the preacher sees fit, the conclusion of the sermon can speak to these truths to initiate a conventional invitation and/or a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

