

WEEK #4: READY FOR A MIRACLE

THEME: REVELATION

Through supernatural miracles, Jesus reveals His compassion, authority, power, and desire to see you and me accomplish infinitely more when His power is at work within us.

Ephesians 3:20, NLT

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Welcome to the fourth week of the *Infinitely More* series. As we follow the journey of Jesus through the four Gospels, Jesus reveals His supernatural miracle-working power that is able to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Compelled by His love and compassion for all, Jesus restores sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and speech to the mute. He heals the sick, cleanses the lepers, and removes every disease and disability. He calms the storm, casts out demons, and even raises the dead. He makes it very clear that everything is possible with God. There's no wonder the people remarked, "Nothing like this has ever been seen" (Matthew 9:33, NIV).

Of the thirty-seven miracles of Jesus recorded in our Bible, one of the most familiar is the feeding of the five thousand. Other than the resurrection of Jesus, this is the only miracle recorded by all four Gospel writers (Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9; John 6).

John 6:1-13, NIV

¹Sometime after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ²and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴The Jewish Passover Festival was near. ⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have

the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹²When they had all

had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

This supernatural buffet reveals so much about the power and authority of Jesus and His heart for you and me to experience infinitely more.

#1 Jesus already knows the need.

John 6:5, NIV

⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

Twice in this passage, John uses the word "great" to describe the crowd. We know there were five thousand men, but we can assume that many women and children were there, too. A conservative estimate would be about twelve thousand people altogether. That's a big group of people to feed all at once, especially when there is almost no food.

But Jesus is not alarmed or surprised by the number of people in attendance. In fact, He was prepared for them and traveled to a mountainside just to make space for everyone to sit down comfortably in the grass. The disciples are intimidated, but Jesus is at perfect peace. He is fully aware of the need in front of them.

It's possible that you feel like the disciples today. Perhaps there are difficulties in your life that seem too big for you. Perhaps you have become so overwhelmed by the size of the problem that you have forgotten Jesus is with you. Satan always wants you to focus on the size of the problem so that you will be intimidated and discouraged, and take your eyes off Jesus.

No matter what issue you walked in with today, none of it has caught Jesus by surprise. He already knows your need. He sees your broken marriage. He has memorized your medical charts. He knows the balance of your bank account. He knows your battle with anxiety and depression. He sees your struggle with addiction. He is fully aware of your teenager's lifestyle. And He isn't intimidated by any of it.

#2 Jesus already has the answer.

John 6:6, NIV

⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

The disciples are scrambling to figure out how they are going to pull off this impossible feat. Remem-

ber, there is no online food delivery, and they aren't in a pizza delivery hotspot. But here's the real problem: the disciples are focusing on the number of people in the great crowd and forgetting about the One who is standing beside them. They're trying to scrape ingredients together while the Bread of Life already has everything they need.

John 6:8-11, NIV

⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

Jesus already has your answer. Jesus already has everything that you need. He is able to take your life and the circumstances surrounding you and make a miracle. That's how He took a boy's sack lunch and transformed it into a feast. Everyone was fed with as much as they want. But it doesn't stop there. Remember, Jesus wants us to have infinitely more.

John 6:12-13, NIV

¹²When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Jesus already knows your need. Jesus already has the answer. And His answer is always more than enough!

#3 Jesus uses those who are all ready.

Who would have thought that a small lunch would produce such awesome results? I'm sure the boy was just as shocked as anyone to witness what happens when we give Jesus everything we have.

The only hope for the world is Jesus. And you and I are the ones God chose to share that hope. Your obedient "yes" to Jesus could be the "yes" to someone else's miracle. When we make ourselves ready, by offering our time, our talent, and our treasure, we are giving Jesus the opportunity to super-naturally multiply our lives and our resources to meet the needs of our church, our city, and our world. Culture wants to convince us to live closefisted and store everything up for ourselves, but Jesus shows us that when we give all that we have to Him, we will always walk away with infinitely more.

Matthew 19:26, NIV

²⁶Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."