

Happy New Year Awesome team:

On Sunday, January 3, 2020, Holly Furtick provided a recapped of the following 2020 sermons:

- “Make Room For The New” from 3/7/2020 – Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZJBo8dVAvg>
- “Tired On The Inside” from 6/6/2020 – Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZk90baM79o>
- “Unschedulable Blessings” from 7/26/2020 – Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmrjYZfF7q4>
- “Did I Ask?” from 9/16/2020 - Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-AoNWd2ZFs>

In case you did not know, here is a link to listen to Pastor Furtick’s Podcast – Link: <https://elevationchurch.org/podcast/>

What was the most meaningful sermon of 2020 for you?

Here are the key takeaways Holly shared for each sermon clip.

- “Make Room For The New” — Time under tension is the formula for growth.
- “Tired On The Inside” — We serve a God who is powerful enough to give us strength, but was also human enough to feel tired
- “Unschedulable Blessings” — Some of the best things God will do in your life will not be on your schedule. You cannot schedule God’s presence.
- “Did I Ask?” — Keep coming back. When they came to Him, they received. When you ask, you activate.

The attached reflects additional notes from the above sermons. These same notes are also posted on the following eGroup web site:

As you have heard me say before - I think the sermons from Elevation Church in 2020 represent a remarkable (and timeless) body of work. See: <http://www.1peter315notes.com/sermon-note-archives-2020/>

Closing Prayer from Elevation Church eGroup Staff: “Father, thank You for the favor You showed us in 2020. Help us keep those moments and blessings with us as we walk into a new year so we can be constantly reminded of Your goodness, grace, and strength. We believe the best is yet to come, and we ask that You would help us grow so we can fully experience it. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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Here are Kev's 1 Peter 3:15 talking points Pastor Furtick's masterful unpacking of Lev 26, Acts 10, and Acts 11 in his sermon "Make Room for the New:"

- *"Some may say that it's arrogant to walk around and say that you're blessed – it's actually quite biblical – being blessed is not what's in your bank account and not what's going on in your body – being blessed as a state of being.*
- *When I turn on the news I'm not getting feelings of hope, freedom, and joy – and I'm not seeing it yet I know that God is full of hope freedom and joy.*
- *God did not bless us to be blessed - he blessed us so that we can be a blessing for others. And we just need to stay on our post and staying optimistic – and keep encouraging others – and this is not easy especially if you have an Internet connection.*
- *And the Lord told me to tell you today to make a room for the new.*
- *Many things come full circle in your life that you did not appreciate at the time – the challenge is to hold onto the old but not at the exclusion receiving the new.*
- *See Acts 11. What is not easy for us to appreciate is that these new believers in Jerusalem were receiving a radical new system faith by which to relate to God.*
- *The paradigm of justification through faith is actually justification by faith through grace. It's not how much faith you have that saves you it is how much grace God has that saves you. The point is not how much faith we have - it is how much faith we have in. By grace you have been saved – and not by your own works – so no one can boast - and it as a gift from God.*
- *In acts 9, 10, and 11 we read about Peter (the point guard of the apostles) visiting Gentile's and they were perceived to be contagious and not part of the covenant. It's easy to recognize the truth when you're not living in the tension of it. Whiles living in the tension we can lose sight of the truth.*
- *Your tolerance for tension determines your potential for growth.*
- *Let's unpack this a bit – we sit in the tension of what God actually said as opposed to the tradition what we heard God say – through the filter of personal preference and prejudice – is the gift of tension.*
- *And what makes for a good TV show we try to pray away in our lives.*
- *And I started this year praying for something really weird – God please increase the quality of my problems.*
- *We never know the whole story that's why we have to keep living - and keep trusting - and keep praying - and keep believing - and keep swinging.*
- *This is why we can't judge anything too soon – see this and Acts 10 and Acts 11 – because in the mist of great tension a great truth was shown – make room for the new.*
- *The Christian Jews were threatened by a blessing - Because they did not recognize it and it did not remind them of what they were used to - in their religious routine.*
- *Yes a rapture event would solve things – however in the meantime we still need to show up to work and change your oil and stuff like that – and we need to learn to bring God into it.*
- *And the circumcised believers criticized Peter for visiting the Gentiles – and it is a criticism birthed out of ignorance.*

- *When you are positioning yourself according to the peace and purpose of God and you are present in the situation that you're in – God tells us that all the other things that people run after – but God says this: I'm going to bring it to you.*
- *We don't have to stress about it - we don't have to chase it - and we don't have to cheat to get it – nor do we have to violate our own morality or ethics – God is going to bring it to me. This is the covenant of grace. We try to get to God but we couldn't with their own actions – so God ripped open heaven - step down to come inside of me – so that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met – no so I can't achieve this holiness on my own - God is going to bring it to me.*
- *So what is the significance of Joppa? Timber from Lebanon was brought to Joppa. See 2 Chronicles 2:16. So Joppa is the place of raw materials. See Acts 11: Joppa is the place where you don't expect much to happen but then something does. Joppa is the place where God puts stuff together. See Jonah 1. Jonah resisted what he did not understand – he resisted what he could not conceptualize since he had no frame of reference. What will you do in your Joppa? Are you going to be like Peter and run towards it or are you going to be like Jonah and run from it?*
- *When God shows us something we immediately default to a previous reference point – and then we start consulting our resources – and God wants to bring us new relationships – but if you're not ready to embrace new people in your life – you will bring the same patterns to the new relationships that you had with the old relationships.*
- *I know that some of you are not jumping on an airplane to go preach in Caesarea like Peter – yet we still must embrace the thought of God bringing something new in our lives – and even if it is painful – don't think of it as losing it – Think of it as God moving it.*
- *As it is written in Lev 26: 9 to 10, you will still be consuming last year's harvest by the time you realize that you'll have to move it out.*
- *You can't receive new miracles with old mindsets.*
- *And the Jewish Christians are asking the question how do we protect what we love – while we embrace what is new? There are three lessons here: Don't limit your life by labels. Romans 8:28 says this: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." This means that God is going to fulfill his purpose and not our preferences. It is God's job to characterize – it is not our job. Seek to understand someone's character and do not prejudge. Don't be loyal to a lie: Don't be late: Because if you hold on to what is old – what you thought previously – how things were – what you previously wanted – you might miss today's miracle trying to hold on to yesterday's blessing.*
- *Yes - we should value tradition, experience, and continuity – Leviticus 26 tells us that we will still be eating last year's harvest unless we move things out and make room for the new. The new is here and we did I am we need to act on it. A new covenant – a new day – a new season.*
- *And we need to multitask our miracles – and learn to move between things and trust God – and keep giving – I keep going – and keep trusting – and keep believing – and keep obeying.*
- *Repentance is making room for the new and moving things out so that you're not dwell on last year's harvest. Repentance is the changing of your mind to make room for the new."*

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Here are my 1 Peter 3:15 talking points from Pastor Furtick's unpacking of John 1 and John 4 in his excellent sermon "I am Tired Inside:"

- *"Jesus' agenda was not imposed by external forces – Jesus had to go through Samaria not because Peter told him to – not because it was something he had to do by popular vote – not because his base like the idea – in fact, his base hated the people of Samaria – just an area to avoid. We all have "some area" that we are trying to avoid – some of the reasons we are tired all the time is because we are trying to walk around something God is trying to have us walk through. So we have a workaround for our pain – however this workaround creates a greater dependency that wears us out in the end. And we do not have to experience this geographically because we all experience this spiritually - we all have to pass through "some area." Sometimes the divine route is the direct route. What are you trying walking around for something that God wants you to walk through? And how much longer will you do it this way?*
- *In John's Gospel we are seeing that Jesus is fully God – Jesus is the response that started with the burning bush with Moses generations ago. Jesus is not a Johnny come lately/fly-by-night Savior. Jesus is not a popstar or flash in the pan – this is why he was not driven by popularity – because he was not instant grits – Jesus arrived by way of 41 generations – from Abraham to David – from David to the exile – from exile to Jesus. God found a man and then used a man - God found a man and then used a man. After so many cycles of this, God said I'm tired of this – I'm tired of you trying to get to me - how about I start coming to you?*
- *Yes there's a lot to be stressed out about in this world – but we can't be selective on what parts of the cross we like the most and ignore other parts of Jesus's ministry. We tend to want to have Jesus do stuff for us and not care about what we do for others. When we say, "let's get back to preaching Jesus and stop talking about racism in America," which Jesus are we talking about? The one you went to Sunday school with or the one that went through Samaria? Which Jesus do we worship? The one that you follow or the one that you lead?*
- *Did Jesus go through Samaria because he was tired or did he go through Samaria because he was tired how people were treating each other? To abolish the barriers full of grace and truth and we beheld his glory. Jesus's journey did not begin in Bethlehem – see John 1. His journey has been long – from the Sapphire seal of heaven to the dusty streets of Samaria – of course he was tired – and of course we grow weary and stumble waiting on God – and we even add an 8<sup>th</sup> I am statement: "I am sick of this" – and when we are tired we fight battles that don't matter and distract us from all the battles that do matter – and the battle that Jesus is fighting in Samaria is this: "those in Samaria that the Israelites have been fighting against - I have come here today to save."*
- *You don't have to do anything right now – let's just all sit down and receive this word: The son of God got tired – perfection got tired – Faith does not prevent fatigue – Faith gives us a place to sit. Jesus sat by the well of Jacob. What will you sit by when you're tired? A lot of what we're sitting next to consists of a well that was dug before we got here. Note the*

*narrative here: Jacob was at the well while waiting on God – Now we see the Lord waiting on a woman. Sometimes we have to sit down next to a real well – and a lot of the places we sit down next to when we're tired are only making us more dehydrated – and a lot of the places that we are drinking from are making us dumber – less hope with more fragmentation – being less informed and not more.*

- *We have been depending on people too much and have been sitting alongside the wrong wells – and we have been depending on what we see with our eyes to tell us how things are – however the well does not come from an external source – and you can't see the pipes – there is a well within you – The Holy Spirit that is greater than everything else that is going on around you – greater is He that is in us. Jesus sat on the well so that the Samaritan woman could see what was in her.*
- *Jesus is sitting at the well with a woman who had five husbands and is now working on number six – so that she could know that He was number seven – On the seventh they God sat down – not because he needed rest but because we did – and that's what I love about a God who will not only fight for us - and walk with us - and talk with us – he is also the God that will traverse through 41 generations of people and come to Samaria just to sit with us.*
- *God might show you something within you that you never knew before – the Samaritan woman had been passed around like the jar she carried to the well on that day – she knew what it felt like to feel used – did Jesus sit down on the well because he was tired or was because the woman was tired? She was tired of being manipulated by people – but rather to have a seat in heavenly places – beyond principalities and rulers.*
- *Closing prayer: Jesus says "I am the bread of life" (John 6), "I am the light of the world" (John 8), "I am the door" (John 10), "I am the good shepherd" (John 10), "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11), "I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14), "I am the true vine" (John 15), and I am the 7<sup>th</sup> man – I am the well – and God has come a long way to sit with you. The proof of His power was not only that He walked on water – the proof of His power was also when He sat down with us – sometimes He walks on water and sometimes He is the water – and I declare that the Lord is in this place. Some of us are tired and we have a right to be tired – and Jesus got tired too – and God is seated with us in heavenly places – God - we need the water of your word and we need the water of worship – in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God – and we need this to circulate in our veins. In this dry and weary land, we need this water – either on a cross or in an empty tomb, you are with us – and we might feel forsaken but we know You are in this place – can you sit with us in our brokenness and you sit with us in our unbelief? – and you sit with us in our rage? – to sit with us so that we know who we really are?"*

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Re-cap of "Un-schedulable Blessings" last week - As quoted in the Elevation Church eGroup Leader guide:

Pastor Steven said 2020 has been "unschedulable."

- *"Read Acts 1:4-8.*
- *God is unschedulable.*
- *God is going to come to you sometimes even after you have given up.*

- *What kinds of schedules or plans do you make for yourself? (In a week, in a month, in a year, etc.) Do you ever do the same thing for God? (Think about expectations you might have without even realizing it.)*
  - *God doesn't need our schedule.*
  - *Read Genesis 12:1-4. God gave Abraham a promise, but then He gave him a process before He blessed him.*
  - *Have you ever followed a process and experienced an unscheduled blessing?*
  - *Prayer: Father, thank You for the unschedulable blessings You give us. We want to focus more on seeking Your presence instead of asking You to meet our schedule. Give us wisdom to open up our hearts, our lives, and our schedules to what You want to do and when You want to do it. In Jesus' name, amen."*
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Pastor: Pastor Steven Furtick - Sermon Title: "When They Found Out – Jesus says "I am the Bread of Life and I am Enough" – What God Gave You is Enough – Jesus Did Not Become Bread, He already Was – The moment of Discovery is not the Moment of Deposit – He Gave Us Plenty – Wait and Find Out What You Have – How Many is a counting exercise - You will not know How Much You Have Until you Put IT into the Hands of Jesus – Learning How Much is an act of Faith – We Have So Much.

- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone? – See [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc).
- Interested in lead and eGroup? [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc).
- **Here Comes Church:**
  - Raised to Life – The awesome testimony and baptism following the loss of her grandmother and a difficult season - by a young woman located in the greater Charlotte area.
  - This week, Elevation Church dispersed \$500K this week to our outreach partners and a total of \$5.5M has been given this year to our outreach partners.
  - We are a distribution center for the gospel – God did not bless us so that we hoard it.
  - Pastor Furtick: "Thank you for your consistent generosity."
- Six campuses celebrating anniversaries today (Greenville-SC (1 yr), Columbia-SC (3 years), Morrisville NC (3 years), Gaston (8 years), River Walk (9 years), University City (9 years).
- Pastor Mike Todd visiting Elevation Church this weekend. Bio of Pastor Mike Todd: <https://transformchurch.us/aboutus/>
- Opening prayer. Praise him today. If You know somewhere deep down inside – This breath in this moment is a gift and it came from above – why don't we give them praise back to the place where the blessing came from – Great is the Lord and give him the praise that he deserves – we have so much to praise him – it is not how many notes that you have, it is how you use them – we have so much to thank God for – and you alone know what God did for you this week – God knows what we need.
- Mark 6: 30 to 42.

- All four gospels write about this miracle – giving us four different perspectives – showing us different angles as to who Jesus was – how many of you know that as you go through life you see things through different angles – so that we have an expanded understanding of God – and our perception of God at 13 is different than when we are 31 – and the way we see Him has to expand.
- The process of revealing himself to the disciples, Jesus was very responsible so not to give them too much – and this was part of his compassion too – he was more than enough however he never gave them more than they could handle – as he ministered to them he did so strategically in stages.
- **When Jesus revealed who he was through the 7 “I am statements” in the gospel according to John, it was a continuation of the same thing that God showed Moses – when he said I am what I am – and Jesus filled in the blank not only by who he was but also by what he did – every time Jesus demonstrated something, he declared something – he did this so that not only could we just hear it but that we could also own it – and get it deep down inside of us.**
- The miracle that we read about today is connected to the first “I am statements” in the gospel of John – and I want read the Gospel of Mark today because there was one phrase that really got my attention this week.
- Have you ever noticed the trouble never makes an appointment when it comes?
- We have to get this word right now because we do not know what trouble is waiting for us this week – and we need this work this week.
- One Bible version said they ate as much as they wanted and all were satisfied.
- See vs. 38 – “When they found out” is what I want to focus on today.
- Going to the doctors to learn the sex of a baby in the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester is not going to answer the question what it is? We often think that we are going to exactly know what it is – yes we can learn the gender of the baby – however we will not know what it is – there is no ultrasound or sonogram they can show how much love you’ll have for this human being – who is going to rip your heart out of your chest and carry it around with them during all the decisions of their lives – there’s some stuff that you cannot see – we say we know what it is even before we bring it forth – some of the stuff we find out progressively – being a parent is progressive – and personality and character cannot be revealed on the sonogram – in the challenge of life, is that we really don’t know what is inside of us – what is inside of others – what is inside of our gifts – Life has to bring forth the gifts – and this can’t be detected on a sonogram – this will take time and maturity – my mom didn’t know what I was until I became it.
- However Jesus was already was – see John 1 (In the beginning was the Word . . .). Jesus did not become sufficient and become the word because he already was – and the disciples did not know what he was until they walked with him – enough to see it in stages so they could understand it.
- The first stage of this is when Jesus shows the disciples that he is the bread of life.
- Jesus already was but the disciples did not know it yet.
- Just before Jesus fed the 5000, he learned that John the Baptist was decapitated for challenging King Herod. When he died, his disciples buried him – and he did not have many

disciples left because he gave them all to Jesus – he told all of his members to go to another church and they did. Where he says “I must become less so that He can become greater.” He gave up what he thought was important because he found what was significant.

- See Luke 1: 5 to 45: John’s Birth Announced to Zacharias, Christ’s Birth Announced to Mary, and Mary Visits Elizabeth. They did not need a gender reveal party.
- The moment that you start telling God what is not in you – the one who made you – the angel then told Zacharias that he will not speak until his baby is born.
- When Jesus found out what happened to John he withdrew – they had a special relationship because John knew who Jesus was before everyone else. It is crazy sometimes that we know things before we should know them – yes God’s hand is on your child right now – however you cannot see evidence of that yet – but we still know – somethings have to be known by the Spirit of God and not shown – somethings you know before you can show – if we wait on circumstances to validate God’s voice, we might be waiting a long time. Faith says – I know it before you show it – we know it on the inside before we know it on the outside – God shows us things that our eyes cannot see and our ears cannot hear – that can’t enter the heart of a man but you know it by the Spirit of God – John knew who Jesus was even while they were still both embryonic.
- This might be good for me but not good for you – you’ve got to know that God is with you and that He has spoken – that you know he is enough – let you know he’s sufficient – even when you experience something that challenges your dependency.
- The disciples did not know yet that Jesus was going to die on the cross for their sins.
- The disciples followed him while he performed all of these miracles but he only knew what he was carrying – and the burden of it.
- What’s interesting in scripture is that it doesn’t say that Jesus told the disciples of John’s death – and he kept this to himself – it is difficult to carry something alone – perhaps you are dealing with something that isn’t public material – the essence of faith is learning how to balance the good news that comes in one ear and the bad news that comes in the other.
- **On one hand we carry a blessing that’s so heavy we can barely carry it – and we carry on the other hand a doubt or question – and this balance is what keeps us walking straight.**
- When Jesus sees the crowd of 5000+ women and children, he saw them with compassion – this amazes me – God knows what you’ve been going through this week – he sees we are hungry and he sees we are hurting – I think some people love Jesus because they considered it a group insurance policy – the power of Jesus is that he sees the one – we talk about the 5000 but Jesus talks about the one – he healed everyone that needed healing.
- Jesus says we need to feed them and the disciples start calculating.
- How many of you are over packers for a three-day weekend?
- When did we discover that the people need to be fed? After it was too late for anybody to do anything about it – Have you ever felt that way with God? If we knew what was going to happen, we would have packed lots of sandwiches. We could’ve gotten some Jersey Mike’s to go boxes – God, why didn’t you tell me this before? The disciples found out about the need when it was too late to meet it. “Why did things have to go so off road.”
- Jesus did not tell them what he had in mind but that doesn’t mean that he did not know it.



- God says “I know the plans that I have for you.” (Kev note: See Jeremiah 29:11) Subtext: And you do not.
- The best way to explain the last five months of this pandemic is ha ha – God laughs at the plans we made for ourselves – when we do our year in series this year I might call it ha ha. God says I get the last laugh – while we attempt plan in 2020.
- See John 6:7-9
- Jesus was Half man half God when he told Philip that we have enough food – enough is a big word in pop culture because we say things like “you are enough” – just because someone says that we are enough doesn’t mean that we feel that we are enough – so Jesus first takes Philip through this process – he establishes the fact that we cannot buy enough bread to satisfy the needs that are in front of them – are you there right now? Philip start calculating – he’s the CFO and he wants to be the accountant – eight months wages would not be enough for each person to have a bite – Philip calculated on what they need for the particular situation – and most of us are pretty good at this.
- **We have both have a Philip inside of us and Andrew inside of us – perhaps you should consider another church because I have two personalities – Philip is a calculator – Philip starts counting all of the stuff that we need – that we don’t have yet – or the stuff that we lack - the stuff that we are ill-equipped for – isn’t it crazy they didn’t find out until they ran out?**
- Why did Jesus do this to them? Once they became empty (no food and limited sun light), it was revealed to them.
- See Mark 6:38
- Phillip said this is what we need – Jesus asked the question how many loaves do you have?
- **When they found out what they already had – not what they figured out they thought they needed – God does not need me to figure out how – he just needs me to find out how – some of you have no idea how you’re going to get through something – the disciples did not know either – but when they found out what was already there – Jesus did not become bread – he already was – Jesus did not become enough - he already was – I do not have to go get peace - it’s already ours – I do not have to become righteous – we already are – we do not have to find a reason to rejoice – we already have one – we discover what God already has put inside of us – the moment of discovery is not the moment of deposit.**
- It already was what it was.
- It was there the whole time – until they walked around the whole crowd and took inventory – I always have plenty of something.
- Deep end of the pool question: Why did John say in verse six there was plenty of grass in that place? Answer: perhaps Jesus was trying to tell us that we always have plenty of something – when you don’t have a job, you have plenty of time. Recall Psalm 23 – He leads me to green pasture – what do you have? And then they found out.
- We do not usually find out all at once – we typically find out in fragments – we even struggle while we are succeeding. Recall the story of the Rumors Album by Fleetwood Mac – we do not know what change is while it is happening.
- God is doing way more in our lives than what we think.

- It takes a while when we instill the values or believe is the promise – and we find out later what it is. God asks this: How many do you have?
- How many do you have? And they threw in fish as an afterthought.
- **This I do know: Mark wrote the gospel that Peter told him to write – John wrote the gospel that he saw with his own eyes – the disciples had to find out on their own – just like the Israelites had to march 6 days before they found out why they were marching (Kev note: See Joshua 6 – The Conquest of Jericho) – pastor Mike Todd did not become anointed only when his platform grew – we are now just finding out – we can't do a sonogram on people before they've had time to grow – people leave churches because they did not find out what was there – it's bad when we send things away before we even find out real value of something – don't you want find out what God put in us? Do we want to go through everything that we had went through and never find out why? Do we really want to come all this way just to die in the valley? Let's find out together.**
- **And when the disciples found out what they had the miracle began.**
- **See John 6:9: Here is what the Lord showed me today: when the disciples found out what they had – and when we find out what gifts, resources, and passions we have – not based on what we think we need (like Philip) – and I always thought the miracle was when the disciples realized what they had – however this is only when they found out how many they had (5 loaves and two fishes) – we can all discover this by counting – Andrew asked the question how far will this go for the many? – here's the revelation: the disciples found out how many they had by counting – they did not find out how much they had until they put it in the hands of Jesus.**
- **We have been thinking how many and God wants to show us how much – and there is a big difference – we can count how many (this is when I dropped out of school and this is how much money I have in my bank account) – but God does not want to show us how many – he wants to show you how much.**
- **And we do not find “how much” by counting – this cannot be figured out by a calculator – disciples had to find out “how many” by calculating but they had to find out “how much” by faith – and here is how I know this – the Bible does not say that it all of a sudden became enough – it was five and it was two – and it was not enough until they came back to Jesus to get more – it was not enough all at once.**
- **This is our biggest conflict with the term “enough” – we think it happens all at once – enough happens piece by piece – Jesus did not give the disciples their next direction until they took inventory of what they have right now – why should we stress about what God says for us to do next when we don't take inventory of what we have right now?**
- **What do we have? This answers the question of how many. What can it be? This answers the question of how much – and the only way to find this out is to put it in Jesus' hands.**
- **“How much” is a beautiful thing and we still don't know the answer to this – “How many” = all the crap that you have to deal with this week – “How much” = only something that you can find out in fragments – God shows you the purpose of your life in pieces – and Jesus did not perform a miracle so that it could “become enough” all at once – what he is going to do is to show you this: every time you come back to him, he will have what you**

need for right now – we all need this word because we all “have a Philip inside of us” – always telling us how much we need but not telling us how much we have.

- God wants to show us “how much” – the only way we find out is by one piece at a time – we all think that it’s going to become a buffet when God touches it – God says I want you to come back to me and therefore I’m not going to give it to you all at once – God says I’m not going to give you all of the answers at once - and I’m not going to give you a five-year plan – because if God gave us the whole buffet at once, we would only worship the buffet.
- Sufficient is the day for its own trouble – today has enough trouble – God never promised to give you enough for tomorrow – He said “give us this day our daily bread” – so it is enough for now – we will need more later - but we have enough for now.
- John tells us that Jesus is the bread of life – “I am the bread of life” – “I am enough” – Jesus did not say I will be – Jesus did not say I was – Remember when the Israelites ate manna from heaven? (Kev note: See Ex 16, Numbers 11, Deut 8, and Psalm 78:24) – and any manna that was saved for tomorrow’s hunger accumulated maggots – we can get “maggots” formed in our minds when we start stressing about tomorrow.
- It is enough for now – we have enough strength now for now – we have enough resources for now – I am not telling you to not plan ahead and invest in the future – when you find yourself in a situation that you didn’t plan on – know this fact: He is enough for that.
- How many never got beyond five and two – the Gospel writers never saw the number go up – the real message has nothing to do with when they found out what he could do – the real message is Yes - I am the bread of life – when the disciples found out who He was, they knew they had enough for any situation – they found out they had enough every time they went back – you mean there’s still more? – it is not running out? What is going on? – I made it through another day! - some storms rage so hard that we have to take them second by second – and we learned this in stages.
- We have to get this concept inside of us – He is the bread of life and we are enough – how much is what is in you - and will never run dry – if we go back to the well of “how many” it will always run dry – we will never run out of bread from heaven – because we know where the bread is from.
- We have a father and his name is “I am.”
- Closing prayer: “Thank you Lord for everything – for the benefit of everybody that heard this message - even if they did not need it – we need this message so much because we have so many questions – and we have so many needs – that eight months of wages could not satisfy – Lord you said that you are the bread – I thank you that you are the bread that came down from heaven – not manna that disappears every day – and we are enough – Lord you are our sufficiency all and all – piece by piece – Great is thy faithfulness – God is going to supply for us – All that I needed, my Lord has provided – When the disciples put IT into Jesus’s hands, they saw how much they had – we have strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow – receive your bread and speak to the sustenance of your word – everything I need is in His presence – The only way to find out how much is to keep coming back – and when his body was broken like the bread and his blood was spilled, they realized how much Jesus loves them – have you found this out yet? The real

miracle was not when they found out what they had – the real miracle was when they found out who he was – The word of life is in your living room, kitchen, hospital and in the place of your greatest need – piece by piece – moment by moment – day by day – Also note that “how many” is plural – “how much” is singular – we don’t say grammatically how many shoe do we have? Jesus said I am the bread of life – it’s a singular – See 1 Cor 10:17 – “Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.” – we already have enough – just keep coming back – We have so much – How firm a foundation. In Jesus’ name - Amen.”

This week’s William Henry Moment: Commentary on Mark 6:30-44 – *“Let not ministers do anything or teach anything, but what they are willing should be told to their Lord. Christ notices the frights of some, and the toils of others of his disciples, and provides rest for those that are tired, and refuge for those that are terrified. The people sought the spiritual food of Christ’s word, and then he took care that they should not want bodily food. And this miracle shows that Christ came into the world, not only to restore, but to preserve and nourish spiritual life; in him there is enough for all that come. None are sent empty away from Christ but those who come to him full of themselves. Though Christ had bread enough at command, he teaches us not to waste any of God’s bounties, remembering how many are in want. We may, some time, need the fragments that we now throw away.”*

Pastor: Tauren Wells – “Somethings Just Don’t Make It Through the Gates of Heaven” - What does the New Testament say about racism as quoted from two sources: A sermon by Billy Graham in 1993 called “Footprints of Conscience” and a press release from New Spring Church – see: <https://newspring.cc/articles/is-racism-a-sin>:

- **Mathew 22:39:** “Love your neighbor as yourself”
- **Luke 10: 25-37:** Jesus’ response to the question “Who is my neighbor?” He responded with a parable about a good Samaritan, a member of a despised race.
- **John 4: 1-26:** Once the Pharisees began their political posturing, Jesus had to go to Samaria – to convert a Samaritan woman.
- **Rev. 5:9:** God created a diverse world “From every tribe and language and people and nation” – additional comments by Billy Graham in 1993: Racism is a sin precisely because it keeps us from obeying God’s command to love our neighbor, and because it has its roots in pride and arrogance. Christians who harbor racism in their attitudes or actions are not following their Lord at this point, for Christ came to bring reconciliation—reconciliation between us and God, and reconciliation between each other.
- **Romans 10:12:** “There is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him”
- **Eph. 2:14-15:** “has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility ... through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility”
- **Acts 8:26-40:** Philip - leader of the church, helps an Ethiopian eunuch understand part of the Bible and begins following Jesus.
- **Deuteronomy 10:17-19:** God cares about people regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, and social status.

- **Acts 10:34-35:** "God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."
- **1 Corinthians 12:13:** "We were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."
- James 2:9: "If you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers."
- **Revelation 7:9-10:** About the age to come, we see a heavenly picture: "a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."
- **Ephesians 2:14-18:** Jesus removes hostility and introduces harmony.
- Galatians 3:28: God isn't about separation, but inclusion and unity. Jesus made it possible for anyone to be included in the people and promises of God."
- **Ephesians 2:13:** The Gospel doesn't just mean that we're brought near to God. It also means we're brought near to the people we once considered so different from ourselves.
- **2 Corinthians 5:18-20:** If we belong to Jesus, we are part of His movement to bring more reconciliation between people and God."