**More Week 5 – More Impact (Celebration Generosity)**

**Message Big Idea**: Jesus offers us the opportunity to have more impact together than any one of us could have on our own.

**Scripture:** Matthew 14:13-21

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**Celebration Generosity**

**Video: Dave and Jon Introduce Celebration Generosity**

**Video: Philippines Team**

**Video: Community 4:12 Team**

*Transition from video to in-person Teaching Pastor.*

**Jesus Feeds the 5000**

I love hearing those stories! Take a step back for a minute and realize that Jesus offers us the opportunity to have that kind of impact both in our own backyard and on the other side of the world! That’s what God can do through Celebration Generosity!

There is a powerful story in the Bible that illustrates what Jesus can do when we give. It takes place on a hillside near the Sea of Galilee. A great crowd has gathered to hear Jesus teach. They are so enthralled with his words that time slips away and pretty soon it is dinnertime and the people are getting hungry.

The disciples, being the leaders Jesus called to help carry out his mission, start to work on a solution. They come to Jesus and say:

**“This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” –Matthew 14:15**

But Jesus has a different idea in mind. He responds:

**“They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” –Matthew 14:16**

Wait, you want *us* to feed them? This directive puzzles the disciples. As they look out at the crowd stretched across the countryside, they think, “There’s no way we can meet this need! There are too many people! There are too many mouths to feed!”

**“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish…” –Matthew 15:17**

…they protest. Yet Jesus replies:

**“Bring them here to me…” –Matthew 15:18**

“Bring what you have and entrust it to me,” Jesus tells them. And no one but Jesus expected what happens next.

**“And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.” -Matthew 14:19-21**

When the disciples brought what they had and entrusted it to Jesus, they got to see Jesus bless it and use it to make an impact in a supernatural way. Not only was everyone in that huge crowd fed, the disciples gathered 12 baskets full of food left over!

That’s really what Celebration Generosity is all about. We all have something we can give. It seems impossible that what we have could be enough to meet the great needs in our world, yet when we take what we have and place it in Jesus’ hands, he can do something amazing…miraculous even.

Today Jesus is offering us the opportunity to have more impact together than we ever thought possible! That impact includes rescuing children living in poverty in Nicaragua and planting churches around the world that will help people find their way back to God. That might seem impossible for any one of us, but that’s exactly what Jesus is doing through us and our Compassion and NewThing Teams.

**Video: Compassion Team**

**Video: NewThing Team**

**Video: Dave and Jon Wrap Up and Giving Challenge**