

**Week Four: Choose to Give**  
**Matthew 14:13-21**

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. What do you think of when you hear the words “scarcity mentality”?
2. In its simplest terms, scarcity mentality is the belief that there will never be enough money, food, emotions or something else. As a result, your actions and thoughts stem from a place of lack. Read Matthew 14:13-17. Read also Mark 6:30-38. How are the disciples exhibiting scarcity mentality? What words of scarcity do they use?
3. How is Jesus exhibiting the opposite of scarcity mentality? What do you think is the basis for his confidence?
4. What are the disciples forgetting?
5. How does having God’s Living Presence impact scarcity mentality?
6. Jesus guarantees his Living Presence to his people. (Matthew 28:20, John 4:15-18) Look up the lyrics for the song “Forever Reign” by Hillsong Worship. Do you believe the statement, “The riches of Your love will always be enough”?
7. Finish your FIFTEEN by making a list of the ways Jesus says or shows he can and will supply your need.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

8. When have you been totally depleted? What did you do?
9. Read Matthew 14:13-17. In our broken world, human need is real. People are without food, drinkable water, medicine, protection, security, love, etc. The disciples were looking at 15,000-20,000 needy people. They were right. We don’t have enough on our own. How does this reality affect our influence?
10. One writer put it, “Every new ‘ask’ causes serious scrutiny of our resources and priorities.” Is this the best response?
11. Read John 15:5. Now read Matthew 14:16-21. How did Jesus visibly demonstrate his statement, “Apart from me you can do nothing”?
12. How does this event impact your response to “every new ask”?

13. Think about the latest or most urgent “ask” in your life. End your FIFTEEN presenting it to Jesus. Will you ask him to give you everything you need to address the need?

### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

14. Scarcity produces tunnel vision. We obsess about what we think we desperately need. We tend to hoard and lose sight of long-term priorities. Scarcity mentality has been shown to lower IQ test performance. Scarcity captures the mind. How have you seen this happen? What triggers this reaction in you?

15. Reread Matthew 14:13-14. What was Jesus’ reaction to the pursuit of thousands of needy people?

16. How do you think Jesus managed to react with compassion?

17. How well do you change your priorities from your own needs and desire to another’s?

18. One suggestion to move beyond scarcity mentality is to purposely feed generosity. One author writes, “Don’t just skim off the top with time, money or relationship.” How would this grow your trust in Jesus?

19. How would feeding generosity impact your influence on others?

20. Finish your FIFTEEN by asking God to give you the courage to feed your generosity, even when your scarcity mindset threatens your resolve.

### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

21. Reread Matthew 14:13-21. Jesus shows how to have enough to give. What does Jesus have the disciples do? What does he do?

22. Let’s break it down into four steps to having enough to give. 1. Come to Jesus. 2. Bring what you have. 3. Offer thanks. 4. Give it away. Why do you think coming into Jesus’ presence is the first step? Who makes the disciples aware of the opportunity to give?

23. Bring what you have. Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-14. Ultimately, everything we have comes from God. What has God given you that you see as insufficient or insignificant?

24. Offer thanks. Reread 1 Chronicles 29:10-14. What is the impact of giving on the people? David praises God for the ability to give. Have you ever considered the ability to give as a gift?

25. Give it away. Notice the process. Jesus says YOU give them something to eat. Then he gives them the food so they can turn around and give it to the people. This happens over and over until all are fed. Jesus could have called down manna or turned stones into bread. Why do you think he did it this way?
26. Finish your FIFTEEN by working through the four steps. Come into Jesus' presence. Think about what he has given you. Give thanks. Then ask him for the ability and opportunity to give. Do what he puts on your heart.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

27. Reread Matthew 14:13-21. Look at verse 20. What were the results of the giving?
28. What does this tell you about God?
29. God gives in unexpected and unpredictable ways, but his gifts are lavish and abundant. How have you experienced this?
30. How is Jesus the ultimate proof of this attribute of God?
31. When God's giving is not on your timetable or in the way you expected, what is your response? Why?
32. Abundance mentality is an adventure! It can be scary and challenging but it leads to joy and growth. It increases your power to influence the world around you for good. Read Proverbs 11:24-25, Matthew 10:8, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. How would your life change if you wholeheartedly trusted God's provision? How would our church change if we wholeheartedly trusted God's provision?
33. End your FIFTEEN praising God for the ways he lavishes you with his love.