

eXplain it
(Lent 4)

Exodus 16:2-21 (Manna and Quail)
Isaiah 49:8-13 (the Restoration of Israel)
Psalm 132 (Abundant Provisions)
Galatians 4:21-31 (Hagar and Sarah)
Acts 2:42-47 (the Fellowship of Believers)
John 6:1-15 (the Feeding of the Five Thousand)

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eXplain it
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Exodus 16:2-21 (Manna and Quail)
John 6:1-15 (the Feeding of the Five Thousand)

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Context
The Beheading of John the Baptist

Matthew 14:9-14

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Matthew 14:9-14: Herod ordered that her request (*the daughter of Herodias*) be granted and had John beheaded in the prison. His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. (NIV)

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Matthew 14:9-14: John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. (NIV)

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fears, failures and fatigue ...

**soul is crushed
body is weary
heart grows cold**

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." Mark 6:31 (NIV)

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Matthew 14:12-14: ... he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.

Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (NIV)

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Ministry ... more, more, more

in a corrupt, broken, sin filled world
there is no end to the line of hurting people

heal one ... tell five
5 ... 50 ... 500 ... over 5000

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“so many ... too few”

so many attacks and threats
so many challenges
so many needs

too few hours in the day
too few resources
too few hands to help

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**But, for Jesus, the crowds are NOT an irritation,
inconvenience, interruption**

Jesus is filled with compassion

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Jesus knows the need is great.

**He reminds us that he can
do much with little.**

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Jesus has food ...

**for the body ("daily bread")
for the soul ("the Bread of Life")**

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Old Testament Shadows

**Creator and creation
manna in the wilderness
the Prophet (Moses and Elisha)**

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Daily Bread from the Hand of God

Psalm 132:15: I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food. (NIV)

Psalm 145:15-16: The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. (NIV)

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**Exodus
wilderness
miraculous provision**

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Exodus 16:2-3: In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

3The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord 's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." (NIV)

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Exodus 16:4: Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. (NIV)

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**He is the THE Prophet
the One greater than Moses
greater than Elijah and Elisha**

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Deuteronomy 18:15-18: Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.

18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. (NIV)

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Old Testament Shadows

**Creator and creation
manna in the wilderness
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Jesus, the "Reality"

**John 6
The Feeding of the 5000**

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John 6:5-6: When 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?"

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

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sometimes scarcity is a sacred gift

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Deuteronomy 8:3: He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. (NIV)

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John 6:7-9: Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" (NIV)

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John 6:7-9: Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,

"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" (NIV)

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John 6:11-12: Jesus 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. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." (NIV)

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John 6:13: So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. (NIV)

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John 6:14-15: After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. (NIV)

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the crowds want a "bread king"

Jesus is the "Bread of Life"

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John 6:33-35: For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

"Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." (NIV)

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John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. (NIV)

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**takes little
does much**

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Ephesians 3:20-21: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (NIV)

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**“give us this day our daily bread”
“forgive us our trespasses”**

**“take and eat”
“take and drink”**

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John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. (NIV)

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