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Mark 6:31-44
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Abundance out of Scarcity

Today, I feel the spirit calling me to talk about the price of bread. The disciples name the price to feed five thousand people at two hundred denarii. How much money is that in today's dollars? No idea, but this represents 200 days of work. Imagine Jesus telling you to give more than half of a year's pay to feed a bunch of strangers.

Would you be willing to do it? Would you be willing to let these people starve?

I think too often I can become paralyzed by these two false choices. No, none of us, individually can feed the five thousand or any other grand cause Jesus has set on your hearts. But I can't do nothing. I cannot abandon the task that Jesus has given me to feed Christ's sheep.

However, there is a third way. To gather five loaves of bread and two fish. That is we bring our whole selves to this community of Christ and try our best to live as disciples. Think about it like a potluck. When we each bring our loaves and fish, it does not matter if there are five people or five thousand. The beauty of the potluck is that there will always be enough for everyone, God's table keeps expanding the more people who come! But make no mistake. This is going to take trust. If we bring our little bit, we run the risk that there will be no miracle, that no one else will bring anything and we will all leave hungry, or to reference the sermon title, we fear that there will be scarcity. But that mistrust and fear is a self-fulfilling prophecy where no one brings a loaf or fish to Jesus. And I promise you that without God, we cannot. But without us, God will not. God will not bring a miracle if we are closed up and are living in fear.

And so this morning, this text is telling me to take a leap of faith. To bring my loaves and fishes to this community of faith. To bring my labor, my love, my knowledge, and my whole being to this community of faith. To our sabbath potluck. Abundance happens when we trust each other when we all bring our own dishes to the potluck. Then Christ will use our little impact and together, make it abundant.