

This Is Jesus Msg 2
 Jesus Meets My Needs
 Sermon preached by Dr. Rick Mandl
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VIDEO ROLLIN

Good morning & welcome once again to

I'm Rick and I'm excited that you're here today as we continue with our new teaching series called

This Is Jesus.

Every week during this series we're **wrestling with the same question** that Jesus asked his disciples almost 2000 years ago.

It's the **same question I want you to wrestle with throughout this series**, and here's the question.

Who do you say that I am?

Who do you say that Jesus is?

What do you really believe about Jesus?

The reason I think it's so important that you be a part of this series, is because this **isn't just an intellectual exercise.**

I want you to make the decision for yourself about what you believe, about the most important person who's ever walked the face of the planet.

You need to investigate this, you need to take this seriously.

Here's the reason,

Your answer to that question is going to determine **not just the quality of your life today.**

It's also going to **determine your eternal destination forever.**

I really believe it's **the most important question you'll ever asked.**

Who do you say that Jesus is?

Now, **last week**, we looked at **Jesus as Messiah.**

We talked about how that meant that Jesus came to **forgive us of our sins.**

This week, I want to look at how **Jesus meets all of our needs.**

Because the truth is that, we all have the same basic needs.

In fact, in 1943, American Psychologist **Abraham Maslow** outlined

A hierarchy of human needs

That are common to all of us.

If you took a psychology class in college you may have studied this at some point.

That figure on the screen shows the **five levels of human needs.**

And no matter who you are, no matter what culture you live in, we all share these five common needs.

As I go through this pyramid, of the five common needs, I want you to see if you can identify where your greatest needs are right now, because when you walked in today, you didn't come alone.

You came in with some needs, some problems, some worries.

See if you can identify where you are on this pyramid right now.

We're going to start at the bottom of the pyramid, and we're going to start with the **most fundamental needs**, and then work our way up to the higher-level needs.

The most fundamental needs that we have are **PHYSICAL SURVIVAL.**

Food, water, warmth, a place to stay.

These are fundamental,

If we don't get these needs met, we're not even thinking about the higher-level needs.

We always start with this.

Do I have enough to survive?

Then, going above that is. . .

Feeling safe and secure.

Do I feel **secure financially?**

Secure **relationally?**

Do I feel secure **physically and emotionally?**

These are **BASIC NEEDS** – Survival & Safety

Now, as we move higher, we're getting to some of the **higher-level** needs that we have.

Things like **love and belonging**.

Friendship, intimacy,

The relationships that you have.

This can be a challenge living here in Southern California, because here in this area, you can be surrounded by millions of people every day, yet still feel all alone.

But we all have these love, these friendship needs.

As you move up the pyramid you get to higher-level needs.

Things like **SELF-WORTH**, your **identity**, your **accomplishments**.

In other words, when I look in the mirror, am I happy with the person I see staring back at me?

Then the **HIGHEST-LEVEL NEEDS** have to do with reaching our full potential.

In other words, **am I the person that God created me to be?**

Am I living out my ultimate purpose in life?

Am I living a fulfilling life?

Here's the interesting thing about this hierarchy of needs,

I can't think about reaching my full potential if I don't have a place to live.

I can't think about "Do I like the person in the mirror?"

If I **don't feel safe and secure**.

You **have to take care of the basic needs** before you begin to think about the higher-level needs.

The point is, we all have these needs.

And . . .

We do all sorts of things to try and meet these needs, even at times, unhealthy things.

In other words, **we'll sacrifice some of our higher-level needs** in order **to make sure our lower-level needs are met**.

I've talked to people who stayed in emotionally, unhealthy, emotionally abusive relationships and they've **sacrificed their self-worth** because they **wanted love and belonging**.

So we'll sacrifice the higher-level needs in order to maintain the lower-level ones.

The truth is, you and I, **we can meet SOME OF OUR NEEDS ON OUR OWN**.

But **we can't meet all of our needs on our own**. ((5:30))

OTHER PEOPLE can come into our lives and they can meet some of our needs, but **they can't meet all of our needs**.

You see, **THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON you can trust to meet all of your needs**, and his name is Jesus Christ.

From the **basic needs of survival**, to **discovering your purpose in life** and reaching your full potential of who God created you to be.

Today, I want to show you WHY you can trust Jesus with all of your needs with whatever you're facing today.

To do that, I want to explore an incredible story from the New Testament of the Bible.

In fact, this is a story that's found in all four of the gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

But we'll be looking at it from the gospel of Matthew, but before we read this story, I want you to take a look at what it might have looked like.

Take a look at this . . .

Video - Jesus feeds 5000 film clip (1:02)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMs8N6Wzww4>

An amazing miracle, that in all likelihood didn't happen exactly like that movie portrayed it. As we look at the gospel account you'll see Jesus broke the loaves into pieces and then distributed them . . .

But let's take a look at the historic record from Matthew's gospel.

Jesus Feeds The 5,000 - Matthew 14:14-21

If you've got your Bible, or your Bible App, you can turn there now.

The words are in your notes, they will also be up on the screen.

Beginning in verse 14 of Matthew 14 it says . . .

"Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick." Matthew 14:14

Here's the first thing I want you to notice.

Jesus from the moment he stepped out of the boat, immediately began meeting their needs.

In fact, he was meeting their lowest level needs,
He was healing the sick, that basic level of survival.
Then, verse 15.

***“That evening the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.’”
Matthew 14:15***

“But Jesus said, ‘That isn’t necessary—you feed them.’

The disciples, looking around, realized that there were so many people, there was no food.
Their solution was to have the people fend for themselves.

Jesus had another idea.

The disciples said . . .

‘But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!’ they answered.” Matthew 14:16-17

They basically said . . .

We don't have enough!

We have only five loaves of bread and two fish!

Think about that for a moment. . .

We have only five loaves of bread and two fish!

Was that true??

Was that all they had?

But notice how Jesus replies in verse 18

“‘Bring them here,’ he said. Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people.”

“They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!”

There's probably 10000 people there all together.

What's amazing about this story, is we see that **limited resources are not a limitation for Jesus.**

Jesus took a handful of resources and met everyone's needs.

The point here is, with Jesus there's always enough.

There's always what we need.

What I want you to know is that today Jesus can meet your needs too.

Whatever you came in here today worried about,

Whatever unmet need you might have...

Whether it's a **BASIC NEED** like health, or making rent,

A **RELATIONAL NEED** like finding someone special in your life,

Or a **HIGHER-LEVEL NEED** like finding your true purpose in life, Jesus can meet all of your needs if you will trust him.

The first step toward that is to . . .

Bring My Needs To Him

Now, that may sound simple, that may sound elementary, but often, when we have a need, we don't bring it to Jesus.

At least not at first.

Instead of bringing it to Jesus, the first thing we do is we try to fix it ourselves

If we can't fix it, then we take it to a friend, or we take it to a family member, or even we'll google it - - check and see if there's a youtube video available.

What usually happens is we end up feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, disappointed, and sometimes disillusioned.

It's usually then, after all the other options have failed, we're at the end of our rope, and we say **"Well, I guess the only option I have now is to bring it to Jesus."**

Think about that.

We have access to the one who fed over 5000 with **five loaves and 2 fishes**, yet we **only bring our needs to him as a last resort**.

Now listen, there's **nothing wrong with sharing a need you have with a family member or a friend**, there's nothing wrong with you actively looking for a solution.

But first, before you do anything else, bring your need to Jesus.

Tell him your problem, let him guide you.

Going back to our story, Jesus' disciples, they saw a need, and they decided **"We're going to fix this need on our own, we're going to come up with a solution."**

We've got between 5000 and 10000 hungry people, our solution is to send them away to fend for themselves."

But Jesus says **"No, I'm going to meet this need."**

At that moment, they probably thought Jesus was crazy.

"Jesus, we only have five loaves and two fish, there are 10000 people here."

But look at what Jesus says in verse 18, going back to our story, Jesus said

"Bring them here. Bring what you have here."

In fact, Jesus is saying "Bring your need to me first."

What if, when we had a need, we went to God first?

What if, bringing our needs to Jesus wasn't an afterthought, it wasn't a last-ditch effort, but what if it was our first instinct?

See, here's what happens when you bring your needs to Jesus.

You see, Jesus loves you so much.

He understands what your needs are.

He wants to meet your needs.

And he's the one with unlimited resources, he's the one that has complete control over everything.

He can handle whatever that need is.

Bring whatever your need is to Jesus first, and trust him.

If you're facing a **health need**, or you're struggling in your **marriage**, bring that need to Jesus.

When you do, I want you to look at what God promises you.

In Psalm chapter 55, verse 22,

Let's read this verse out loud together, beginning with give.

Are you ready? Go

"Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you." Psalm 55:22

Bring your needs to Jesus, he will take care of you.

What need do you need to bring to Jesus today?

Take a look at that connection card we were talking about earlier.

Notice that the third next step on the left-hand side, on the back of your card.

((CONNECTION CARD))

It says, "Bring my need to Jesus today."

When you walked in here today, you came in with a need, it was something that you've been thinking about, maybe even praying about, maybe that's what you were lying awake in your bed last night, looking up at the ceiling thinking about this unmet need in your life

I want to ask you to write it down in that space on the back of your connection card, it's your way of saying **"Jesus, today I'm bringing that need to you first."**

Will you help me meet this need?"

Write that down and we will pray for you.

For Jesus to meet your needs, it starts by bringing our needs to him first.

Now I wish I could tell you that this will always be a "one and done" deal.

You bring your need to him and then you forget about it.

But that's not what the Bible tells us.

The reality is that

Sometimes God doesn't meet our needs the way that we expect Him to meet our needs, and sometimes He doesn't meet our needs on our timetable, but He does always meet them when we trust Him.

Let me tell you what you should not do.

When you pray for something, and you don't get it right away, what you should not do is stop asking.

Sometimes, when God doesn't meet a need and answer a prayer right away, we assume He's not going to.

We assume "This must not be God's will."

So we give up, we stop praying.

But in the gospel of Luke, Jesus tells a story about someone who goes to a friend's house late at night.

They have company that comes over, they run out of bread, and so late at night they over to their neighbor's house, and they knock on the door. "Hey, do you have any bread for me?"

The person there says "Are you crazy? Do you know what time it is? I'm in bed, go back to bed, leave me alone."

But Jesus says "But if you keep knocking at the door, they're eventually going to get up and give you bread, just so you go away and they can go back to sleep."

He says "Keep on asking."

Then he says this right after he tells that story, Jesus says

"And so I tell you,

What are those next two words?

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for.

What are those next two words?

Keep on seeking, and you will find.

What are those next two words?

Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you." Luke 11:9

In fact, I want you to turn to the person sitting next to you, and say "Keep on."

Say that to them right now.

Say "Keep on."

Now, look, Jesus says **"Keep on." Don't give up, don't stop praying.**

Keep on bringing your needs to Jesus.

In fact, Jesus here, what he's doing, he's **giving us permission to be shamelessly persistent** about our needs.

The point is, sometimes we give up on important things way too easily.

Whether it's your **marriage**, or your **career**, or your **finances**.

Sometimes even your **relationship with God**.

We tend to give up when things get hard.

But sometimes, we need to be persistent.

We need to not get discouraged.

Listen, when you keep bringing that need to Jesus, you prove that you are relying on God, and you're not relying on someone or something else to meet your needs.

A great example of this for persistence in prayer is the apostle Paul.

In fact, in the New Testament, in Second Corinthians Chapter 12, he writes about an important need that he has in his life.

Look at what he says.

"I was given a thorn in my flesh..."

Now, we don't know what that thorn in Paul's flesh was,

We're not told

Whatever it was, it was a need that has gone unmet, it was a problem that he had.

There's been speculation about what it might have been, but the bottom line is we don't know. He says

"I was given a thorn in my flesh... Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, 'My grace is all you need.'" 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Again, we don't know what Paul's thorn in the flesh was, but we do know that he begged God over and over and over again to take it away, yet God never took it away.

But in the process, Paul learned to rely on God and God gave him what he needed most, which was God's grace to endure it.

For some of you, you may be going through something, and you've asked God to take it away.

You're going through something, you've asked God to provide for a need, and He hasn't, and you're discouraged.

But Jesus says "Keep asking. Keep being persistent."

Even if you don't get what you want, trust that God is always going to give you what you need.

Trust that God's grace will be enough.

APPLICATION:

As you look at this miracle of Jesus feeding the 5,000 let me ask you to apply it to yourself personally, and consider the question . . .

"What do I think is too big for God to handle?"

This was part of the problem that Jesus disciples had.

They felt like the only solution to the problem of **so many hungry people** was to send them away because the need was just too big?

I don't know how many of you are receiving the **Easter Devotionals** that we send out each day, but this past Thursday, there was a great quote from Andrew Murray.

He was reflecting on the verses from Ephesians 3 that say

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

And in reflecting on those verses, Murray said this . . .

"Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God; not only by unbelief, but by thinking that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things 'above all that we ask or think.'" – Andrew Murray

Again, God is . . .

able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think,

But I wonder, do we sometimes go to him in prayer, feeling like even if what we're asking of him is **within his ability**, it's **probably not something that He is going to do.**

Keep bringing your needs to Jesus.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that the need you are bringing is too big for God to handle.

Or that he's too busy.

Or that he just doesn't care.

Bring Your Needs To Him

And then the second key to God meeting your needs is . . .

I REMAIN THANKFUL to Jesus during my time of need.

And by that I don't just mean to not forget to thank Him when he answers, I mean **remain thankful** to Jesus **while you wait.**

Now, I'm going to be honest with you, this is the one I really struggle with sometimes.

Because it's hard to be thankful, especially when you have this big need in your life that's not being met.

When you're lacking something or someone in your life, that you feel like you need.

I mean, it's easy to be thankful when everything is going your way...

But **when your money is running out**, when **the business is going down**, when you have **a parent in the hospital**, when **you feel all alone**, it's not so easy to be thankful, is it?

But the **Bible says** that's exactly the time it's most important for you to be thankful, during your time of need.

Look at what the apostle Paul writes in First Thessalonians 5:18, I love this passage, look at what he writes. He says

"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Notice, it doesn't say "Be thankful **for** all circumstances."

That would be very difficult to do.

You don't have to be thankful for the problems in your life, you don't have to be thankful for the suffering that you're going through.

God takes no joy in your pain.

Paul is not saying that you have to paint a false picture on your face and pretend everything is okay when it's not.

Paul is not saying that at all.

Paul is saying, be thankful not **for** all circumstances, but be thankful **in** all circumstances, Would you circle that word in in that verse?

Be thankful **in** all circumstances.

In other words, whether things are going well, or whether they're going terribly, always be thankful.

How do you do that?

How can I be thankful when I'm facing this big need in my life?

The way to be thankful in tough times is to realize that despite the trouble you're facing, you always have something to be thankful for.

No matter your circumstances, even if life isn't perfect.

You can always give thanks for something.

When you're thankful for what you do have, God steps in.

When you're thankful for what you do have, God gives you peace, God gives you strength, God gives you the help that you need.

No matter what you're facing right now, you can still be thankful that . . .

The third and maybe the most important choice that we have to make if we want Jesus to meet our needs.

I want you to write this down.

If I want Jesus to meet my needs

I Offer My Entire Life To Him

When Jesus feeds the 5000, and he proves to everyone there that he is the one who meets our needs.

Don't overlook an important part of this story.

You see, Jesus could've fed everyone there out of nothing.

Remember, he's the creator.

He certainly has the ability to make something out of nothing.

But that's not what he does here. Instead, Jesus first asks, he says **"I want you to bring what little you have to me."**

By the way, it's the same for us.

Before Jesus meets the need, he wants you to bring what little you have to him as well.

Jesus says, bring your entire life to me right now whether **rich or poor**, whether **abundant or scarce**, whether **happy or sad**, bring me whatever you have right now, and I will bless it, I will multiply it, I will meet your need.

Many of us, we **want Jesus to meet our needs**, but we **want to withhold** what we currently have from him.

But **here's what I want you to understand**, when I don't trust Jesus, and I **hold back areas of my life from him**, I don't receive God's blessing.

I end up frustrated. I don't receive God's best for my life.

Jesus says it this way in Mark Chapter 8, verse 35, he says

(Jesus) "If you try to hang on to your life, you will..

What??

you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it." Mark 8:35

See, what Jesus is saying is **whatever you offer to him**, he **blesses**.

But **whatever you hold back from him**, whatever you **hang onto, you will ultimately lose**.

Look, you **want Jesus to bless you financially**, but you **hold on to your money**, and you **don't honor him with it**.

Jesus can't meet your needs in that area.

You **want Jesus to bless you with a great relationship**, but you don't give him first place, you don't honor him in the relationships you already have.

He's not going to meet the need that you have in that area.

You **want Jesus to bless your career**, but you don't give him first place in that part of your life.

You don't let him direct your career.

He's **not going to bless that area of your life that you're holding back** from him.

If there's a real need that you have in your life right now, the first step is to be sure you give that area to Jesus.

Make sure that he in control there.

Before Dr. Maslow created his hierarchy of human needs, God already knew what your greatest needs were going to be,

Before you were even born, before He created you, He knew what your needs would be.

In order to meet those needs, He sent His son Jesus Christ into this world to be the one who meets your needs.

Our physical needs, Jesus fed the 5000, he's going to feed you.

Our need to be loved.

Jesus loves you so much that he gave his life for you on the cross.

He **created the church so you could have a family that loves you**, and you could have those healthy relationships.

Our need to make a difference.

Jesus is the one who gives you a mission, he gives you a purpose to live so you can have a fulfilling life.

Our need to be secure.

Once you give your life to Jesus Christ, you belong to him, and **no one or nothing can ever rip you out of his hands.**

Your eternity in heaven is secure forever.

You see, **whatever need you have today**, bring it to Jesus,

Be thankful.

Give your entire life to him.

When you do, you receive this promise from God.

It's our memory verse for today, Matthew 6:33, let's read it out loud together beginning with

SEEK. Are you ready?

Go.

"Seek the kingdom of God above all else and live righteously and He will give you everything you need."

Would you bow your heads with me right now?

Let's pray together.