

Missions Sunday. The Walters family shared their ministry. Check out the service, which is recorded on www.fpcd.org.

Mark 8:1-8 – The meaning of bringing what you have to Jesus:

We heard a story of a crowd following Jesus and Jesus became concerned for their need for food. Now food to Jesus means the practical kind and the spiritual kind. He is like a good mother, interested in nourishment. He asked the disciples – and had we been there that day, He would have asked us to bring what we had.

Other gospels tell us that a boy offered his lunch. Perhaps it was a boy or a young man or a woman. That person did not need the miracles Jesus was about to perform. He already had his lunch. But Jesus said, "Give up your food. Give up your security." And then those things you value and you own become the avenue, the channel, and the blessing for others.

John 21:15-17 – The command and charge of Jesus that disciples (us) are to feed His sheep:

Again, after the resurrection Jesus had met the disciples on the shore early one morning. He fixed them breakfast. Food to Jesus means the practical kind and the spiritual kind. He gives food through you – as you bring your sandwiches for Austin Street Shelter.

The disciples, who were fisherman by trade, had been out for a catch. So Jesus asked the disciples to bring some of the fish for Him to cook and they did. He then gave this charge to Peter, and, to all of us: *Let your love for me show by giving it away.*

When you tell others about Jesus, when you share the message and give of your own spiritual food, you do it because you love Him. Sometimes that is very costly. It costs time and intention – just like working a job costs you time and effort. But you do it for good reason. But when you take that love you have for Jesus and you take the time and make the effort to reach out to others, it becomes the avenue, the channel, through which Jesus reaches out to others.

Acts 1:4, 8-9, 2:1-4 – The power in which we carry out the task that we are given:

Jesus gave the disciples final instructions before He left the earth. He was staying with them and so he gathered them around one morning and said, "Wait until I feed you spiritually with the Holy Spirit. Then you won't have to be anxious about what to say; you won't have to worry that you can't do it. He will give you the power. Then, in Holy Spirit power, go to everyone – here, there, and to the ends of the earth."

They waited, and then about ten days later – today is the anniversary of that day, Pentecost – the Holy Spirit came on them and gave them the ability to go to all peoples and all language groups and communicate God's love.

They spoke in languages, just like the Walters have learned another language because the Holy Spirit helps them. And there are many of you who speak more than one language so you can openly embrace folks from all cultures to communicate about God's love. And you don't even have to be anxious about it, because it is not you, it is the Holy Spirit.

All you have to do is give Him your time like they did, and willingness; but when you do that, your time and willingness became the avenue, the channel, through which He brings God's blessing to others.

If you trust Him with your lunch . . . if you trust Him with your time and effort . . . if you give Him your security you will find that you can actually trust Him with your life.

And then what we think of as our own smallness and inability, "*nothing may come of this,*" in Jesus hands it becomes a blessing to many others. Your efforts will go viral, and become a total blessing, something far beyond what you could ever imagine or think.

AMEN