

“You have More of an Effect than you Think”

Joshua 2:1-6

11/2/25

You have more of an effect than you think. Think about your morning routine. Believe it or not, how you prepare to greet the first person sends a ripple effect through the universe. I teach our boys all the time, “Is the universe going to affect you, or are you going to affect the universe! What does the Lord require of you but to Love Kindness, to Do Justice and to Walk Humbly with the Lord Jesus!”

Your kindness can change the trajectory of someone’s day/human history. Rahab has been remembered through Christian history. Her kindness doesn’t simply save the lives of a few faithful people; her kindness changes the course of Israel’s history. One person! God has given this authority and power to you as well! As you wake up tomorrow, or for that matter the rest of today, how are you going to use your power to positively change lives?

Your kindness can change the trajectory of someone’s day/human history. Rahab has been remembered through Christian history. Matthew, when writing Jesus’ genealogy, mentions Rahab by name. She is a powerless woman, who is a foreigner and perceived enemy, and yet God uses her to shape human history. Rahab is Jesus great, great, great to the 32<sup>nd</sup> great, grandmother. When telling Jesus’ story, Matthew’s point is God can work through anyone. You are that anyone! Your kindness can change the trajectory of someone’s day/human history.

We are in the month when we give thanks to God for all the good Lord has done for us. We are hoping and praying that you will prayerfully consider giving to NPC as a response of Thanksgiving. But your offering of time, talent and money is not simply your thanks to God, God will use it to positively change lives, to change the course of human history.

Let’s hear how one little boy’s generosity enabled a miracle in John 6:1-14.

Your generosity can provide for miracles! What if this little boy had said, “No?” “No, Jesus. These 5000 people don’t have foresight. Should I give up my lunch, because these people don’t know how to plan? I’m working in self-interest here. Tell these people to get jobs. They are never going to learn from handouts.”

But the little boy’s generosity enables a miracle! He doesn’t act in self-interest. In fact, he acts against his immediate interest and we Christians uphold him as a model Christian! The boy’s offering to Jesus provides for miracles. Your offering to Jesus at NPC provides for miracles.

We saw a miracle at NPC on September 18<sup>th</sup>. In response to a tragedy that occurred at Franklin Regional School District, we witnessed this Leadership Team put together a Prayer Vigil that welcomed over 700 people onto these grounds. 700 people came together to remember a student and hear the healing words of Jesus Christ! Souls were fed that evening through your financial generosity and I thank you!

But just think, if we had said “No” to renovating this green space, we couldn’t have offered such a welcoming experience! If we hadn’t given our 5 Loaves and 2 Fish, God wouldn’t have been able to provide that miracle.

With your gift this year I pray that you will do two things: 1. Generously give from a place of Thanksgiving. 2. Give to enable miracles here at NPC.

We are in the process of seeing a miracle in how many phone calls we are receiving for the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank because of lack of Federal funds. Through your giving of 5 loaves and 2 Fish, we will feed this community.

And that leads us to the last point, Jesus teaches abundance mentality! Not only when we have faith in Jesus, will Jesus provide; faith in Jesus provides more than enough. God’s Word tells us the people ate as much as they wanted to satisfaction: they finished with more than when they started. When we share there is more than enough. When we share even the smallest of gifts, there will not only be enough but more than enough. To drive the point home of an abundance mentality as opposed to scarcity or fear mentality, John tells the story of Jesus walking on water and calming the storm. Faith not fear! Abundance not scarcity!

Hope and I were very honored the other day because August gave us a high compliment, “You and dad are resourceful. You always sewed dad’s old jeans. You limped along those two old cars. You cut our hair. You are always eating leftovers. We wear secondhand clothes.” God commands stewardship to live Jesus’ life of generosity! Jesus commands generosity when he says, “Pick up your cross and follow me.”

Now the story doesn’t end there, the people who were fed by this boy’s generosity wanted to know more about Jesus. The next day after Jesus walks on water and calms the storm, the crowd that Jesus fed after giving thanks starts looking for Jesus. They want to know where He came from. Jesus tells us, “You are looking for me not because you saw miracles but because you ate your fill of bread. Don’t work for food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life that the Son of Man will give you.” And the crowd replies, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus tells us, “Friends this is the work of God, that you trust in Him whom God has sent.” Believing Jesus is the greatest work that you can do.

Friends when you give to NPC this year, please give in thanks to that which God has given you. Please give because you not only want to feed stomachs, but you desire to feed souls living in Jesus’ presence in the present moment. This is eternal life!

Love,  
Pastor Curtis

1. Your kindness can change the trajectory of someone's day/history.
2. Your generosity can provide for miracles. The little boy didn't act in self-interest but acted against his immediate interest.
3. Jesus teaches abundance mentality. When we share even the smallest of gifts, there will not only be enough but more than enough.

John 6:1-14

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"*  
*Psalm 118 & 136*

Thankful Thoughts. Please consider sharing one or many (there is no limit) of your favorite things (big or small, specific or general) about Newlonsburg (from chocolate sprinkle donuts during the early service to the Cantata). You can sign your name or submit anonymously (these will be shared in a section of the website and potentially a physical display at NPC. What about NPC makes you feel blessed? Your "thankful thoughts" can be returned with your commitment card, dropped in a box in the Narthex, or submitted through the website ([www.newlonsburgchurch.org](http://www.newlonsburgchurch.org))

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!"*  
*Psalm 118 & 136*