

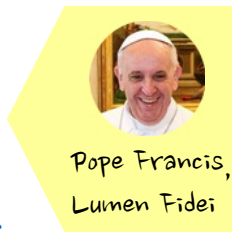


Week 4:

## A New Way of Seeing

The Kingdom is a way of imagining the world differently: not just as it is, but as it should be. We are called to see through Jesus' eyes. When confronted with two polarizing alternatives, Jesus always seemed to find a "third way" that surprised everyone. The Gospel stories of the feeding of the multitudes show a glimpse of this Kingdom alternative being put into practice.

Faith does not merely gaze at Jesus, but sees things as Jesus himself sees them, with his own eyes: it is a participation in his way of seeing.... Christ's life, his way of knowing the Father and living in complete and constant relationship with him, opens up new and inviting vistas for human experience.



Pope Francis,  
Lumen Fidei



Stories of crowds being fed with multiplied loaves and fishes are so important that they appear in all four gospels, and twice in Mark and Matthew! Six times in four gospels. In fact, it is the only miracle story to appear in all four gospels. Why is this story so important?

These stories show the vision of the Kingdom being put into practice, on earth as it is in heaven. Here are some things we can learn about the kingdom.

### God's Kingdom solution:

**...uses people to perform a miracle.** "Give them some food yourselves," Jesus says. He could have rained food down from heaven or just made it appear, but he chose to work through human-provided gifts. How does God want to use us?

**...is an unexpected "third way."** Across the accounts, the disciples can only imagine sending the people home or buying food from the closest village. But, as is typical of Jesus and the Kingdom, the answer is an alternative beyond their imagination. When do we need to see in a new way, and see possibilities through Kingdom eyes?

**...is counter-cultural.** The normal way of thinking was scarcity and everyone out for themselves. The Kingdom has sharing, common meals, and enough for everyone.

## Learn More on the Website:

### Kingdom Imagination

Images and metaphors can help us reframe a situation, perceive it in a new way, and imagine new possibilities. Learn about applying God's dream to our lives. Plus: practical ideas for developing our Christian imagination to move beyond being stuck in the way things are.

### The Crazy Ones

What can we learn from the unconventional thinkers who we now consider geniuses?

### Songs From the Kingdom

Billy Crockett's "What You Got" reminds us how God transforms our "not enough" into "more than enough" for the Kingdom; John Michael Talbot's "Behold Now the Kingdom"; Nicole C. Mullen's "Thy Kingdom Come."

Visit: <http://gospel.link/shouldbe4>