

- I. The Tragedy of the Small Wonder
- A. No one's life reaches its fullest potential until that life is tapped into a wonder bigger than yourself.
  - B. You were not created to chase the predictable. You were not created for a low-profile, spiritually average existence. You were created for wonder so big it floods every corner of your soul and spills into your world in incredible ways.
  - C. For this series on the Harbor and the Horizon, I have been asking you questions, as we looked at parables of Jesus that pose those questions.
    1. From the parable of a man who built bigger barns to store his goods... we asked: What Cathedral are You Building?
    2. Then, from the parable of the master who entrusted his servants with capital and told them to invest it, but one hoarded it... we asked: What God are You Serving?
      - a) Today, one final question to close out the series.
    3. This will come from what is called the Parable of the Great Feast:
      - a) **What Wonder are You Chasing?**
  - D. You are created for wonders greater than this planet can offer you; you were made to touch the transcendent invisible realms.
  - E. Which means that a life's biggest tragedy is not that you might choose something evil. It is that you become content with lesser things that just don't matter.
    1. The tragedy is that you might trade the glory of the transcendent for the easy path of the average.
  - F. Jesus told this parable:
    1. *"A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'" (Luke 14:16-23)*
  - G. Look at the excuses. A field. Some oxen. A wife.
  - H. All good things... really good things. A field is a good thing. Oxen are a good thing. A marriage is a wonderful thing. These are blessings. Nothing here could possibly be classified as a sin.
  - I. The tragedy of this parable isn't that the people chose evil over good.
    1. The tragedy is that they chose the good over the wondrous.
    2. They had a King's feast waiting — prepared at staggering cost — and they traded it for a Tuesday afternoon errand.
  - J. They did not respect the Master. They did not respect his gift. The excuses they made were not because they had other things to do; the excuses they made were because they disrespected the Host of the Party. They had better things to do with their time, so they made excuses.
  - K. If you were to see their faces, they wouldn't look angry. They would look Distracted, Bored, and Smug.
    1. Distracted by the "stuff" of the world.
    2. Bored by the "simple" gift of grace.
    3. Smug in the belief that their "must-dos" made them more important than the Host.
  - L. CS Lewis wrote,
    1. "It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." — C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*
    2. They traded a lifetime of abundance for a completely forgettable afternoon.
    3. Look at what they missed:
- II. The Wonder You Already Inhabit
- A. *"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."* (Hebrews 12:22-24)
  - B. The Greek here is perfect tense. Past action with continuing results. It is done. Not "you might come if you behave." Not "you'll come when you die."
  - C. The moment you said yes to Jesus, you were teleported into the capital city of the cosmos. You sit on that throne. You hold those keys.
  - D. A few verses earlier, the writer reminded his readers of Mount Sinai, where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Mt. Sinai is the mountain of trembling, smoke, and fire, where God's voice was so terrifying that even Moses shuddered.
  - E. That is not where you are.
    1. **You have come to Mount Zion — God's mountain of grace.** The city of the Living God. Mt. Zion is not a place of fear; it is a place of grace. It is where the feast is. It is the throne room of the universe, dressed for a wedding. Music in the air. Lights in every window. The Father of Lights Himself walking the halls, waiting for you to look up and see where you actually are.
      - a) And look at the list of who is standing there with you.

2. **You have come to an innumerable company of angels.** A number so vast the Greek language gave up trying to count it. You are never, ever alone. You have stepped into a celestial chorus that began the morning the stars were born and will not stop singing for ten thousand years and ten thousand more.
  3. **You have come to the church of the firstborn, registered in heaven.** The underground Christian in North Korea is your brother. The martyr in ancient Rome is your sister. The kids who will receive Jesus thirty years from now in our church — they're family. Our names are registered in heaven. Written by the hand of God in the blood of Jesus.
  4. **You have come to God the Judge of all.** On Sinai, the Judge is terrifying. On Zion, the Judge set aside his gavel to become the Host of the Feast. He said, Not guilty. And then He stood up from the bench, walked across the room, pulled out your chair, helped you in, and filled your plate with the richest of fare.
  5. **You have come to the spirits of just men made perfect.** Abraham is at your table. Ruth, Mary, Peter, Paul, Esther, Daniel — at your table. The faithful grandmother who prayed for you when you were too young to remember — at your table. You haven't just started the race. You have stepped onto the victor's platform.
  6. And all of this — all of it — **because of Jesus the Mediator.** Jesus is the Master of Ceremonies who personally walks you to your seat. He does not point you to the table; He pulls you to it.
  7. **You have come to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than the blood of Abel.**
    - a) Abel was murdered, and his blood cried out from the ground for vengeance.
    - b) Jesus was murdered, and his blood cries out from the cross for forgiveness.
      - (1) Pardon.
      - (2) Peace.
      - (3) Mercy.
      - (4) Welcome home.
  8. You've come to a place you're qualified for. Stop wondering if you belong. You are not on probation. You have been adopted, sealed, and seated at the eternal table of the King.
    - a) You are richly blessed, highly favored, deeply loved.
    - b) This wonder is where you belong.
    - c) This wonder is your natural setting.
    - d) This wonder is where you are truly yourself as you were meant to be and as you long to be.
      - (1) Which makes me wonder, what wonder are you chasing?
  9. You say, I want this. I know this. Why don't I experience this?
- F. Listen carefully. I want to give you a sentence I want you to write down and tape to your bathroom mirror:
- a) **Faith is the soul's capacity for grace. And grace is what makes a life into wonder.**
- G. In the Old Testament, a poor widow comes to the prophet for help. Her husband is dead. The creditor is coming to take her two sons to pay off her debt. And Elisha asks her: "What do you have in the house?"
1. She says, "Nothing — except a small jar of oil."
  2. And Elisha tells her something strange. "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere — empty vessels; do not gather just a few." So she goes. She knocks on doors. She borrows vessels, pots, jars, anything. She shuts the door. And she begins to pour.
  3. And from that small jar of oil, more oil pours. And pours. And pours.
  4. Until — listen — "When the vessels were full, she said to her son, 'Bring me another vessel.' And he said to her, 'There is not another vessel.' So the oil ceased."
  5. Why did the oil stop?
    - a) Not because God ran out.
    - b) The oil stopped because she ran out of vessels. The only limit on her experience of grace was her provision of faith.
6. **The only limit on the grace of God in your life is the size of the faith you bring Him.**
- H. How big is your faith?
- I. God invites you in Psalm 81:10: "Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."
1. How wide are you opening?
- J. Dream bigger. Pray bigger. Trust deeper.
1. And we need big faith in a big God.
- III. The Commission From the Feast
- A. And the biggest reason is because the King's feast is not yet full.
- B. In the parable, the original guests have made their excuses. The King looks at the empty seats and turns to His servant: "Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind."
1. Don't just invite them, bring them. Go get them.
- C. The servant goes. He comes back. And in one of the most haunting lines in all of Scripture, he says: "Master, it is done as you commanded — and still there is room."
- D. **Still there is room.**
- E. Even after the servant has scoured the city, even after the rejected and the broken and the forgotten have been carried into the banquet hall, the King looks at the table and says: still there is room.
- F. So the King speaks again — and this time His voice has passion in it: **"Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."**
1. Dismantle misconceptions. Break down preconceptions. Show them the God of Grace in the face of Jesus.
  2. That is God's loving obsession.
- G. That's us. That's me and you together, each in different ways.

- H. This is not about just growing our church. That is a thimble of grace. Filling the King's house is the wonder. Watching the seats around the cosmic table get occupied one by one by people you helped carry through the door — that is the wonder you were made for.
- I. And this is exactly where Church Everywhere comes in.
1. **Church Everywhere** is Pathway Church's audacious answer to the King's command. We are breaking the concrete-and-steel barrier of traditional church because the King's house is not limited by parking lots or building permits. This isn't just a Pathway Church video. It's everything our church believes and offers packed into a website.
  2. The King's house is limited only by our willingness to gather more vessels.
    - a) **When the King says "Go out into the streets and lanes"** — we respond with yourbestlife.app. A low-friction front door for the anxious, the searching, the spiritually homeless. The people typing questions into their phones at two in the morning.
    - b) When the King says "Go out into the highways and hedges" — we deploy micro-campuses in coffee shops and businesses across this region, and digital venues for people who would never walk through a church door.
    - c) When the King says "That my house may be filled" — we respond with a goal so audacious it can only have come from heaven: 50,000 souls in 24 months. And through the Grace Pathway, once they say yes to the feast, they move from new guest to co-host. From rescued to rescuer.
  3. The King has commanded. The banquet is spread. The servant has gone out — and still there is room.
- IV. The Size of Our Faith
- A. That is what the Harbor and the Horizon is.
  - B. **The Harbor and the Horizon is the moment your faith says to the King: Lord, I will gather as many vessels as I can.** I will stretch my faith. I will not be content with average. Okay is not okay. Pour as much grace through my life as I can carry, and then overflow through me to others.
  - C. This is not you striving. This is not you earning. This is not buying your seat at a feast you're already at. The seat is yours. The blood has spoken. The cup is poured.
  - D. This is overflow of grace by faith. This is what happens when grace has filled your soul to the rim and has nowhere left to go but out — out into the highways and hedges where the King is still saying there is room.
  - E. **Two simple goals.**
    1. **First, we are weighing the anchor: \$2.6 million to completely pay off our mortgage.**
      - a) For me, this is more about opening up more capacity for grace by cutting the chain that slows us down.
        - (1) Every single month, money streams into a bank that could be funding the rescue of real souls... and you know Pathway actually does that every single day.
        - (2) That mortgage has been a great tool and a blessing. But now it's time to accelerate.
        - (3) Paying it off liberates a massive monthly stream of grace-overflow for our mission. This is not just finance. This is freedom for the Gospel.
      2. Second, we are setting the sails: \$1 million for radical mission expansion.
        - a) This is the direct fuel for Church Everywhere. It funds the digital infrastructure of yourbestlife.app and the Grace Pathway brought online.
        - b) It funds the resources for the facilitators who will host Pathway campuses in coffee shops anywhere in the world. This is what takes us from reaching our next 500 to reaching our next 50,000.
    - F. I'm asking for us collectively to gather more vessels than we need, and more than we think we can.
    - G. I'm asking for you individually to gather vessels proportional to the grace you believe He has already poured into your life... and to think of the level of faith you want to believe and act as if it is already true.
      1. You are already on Mount Zion. The oil is already flowing. You are richly blessed. Highly favored. Deeply loved. Already right now.
      2. Believe it enough to act like it's true.
    - H. **Ask the King — you tell me to go out and get them. How far? How many? How much?**
      1. Am I a consumer or a participant?
      2. Do I treat my church as a cruise ship or a battleship?
      3. Is my life for myself or for purposes beyond myself and beyond this life and beyond this space-time continuum?
    - I. Your investment in The Harbor and the Horizon is not just paying a bill. You are presenting empty vessels to the King and saying fill this one too. And every dollar that flows through this church into the rescue of the next 50,000 souls is grace that came from a cup that was overflowing before you ever wrote a number on a card.
    - J. The feast is waiting. The King has paid the ultimate price. The oil is flowing.
    - K. How many vessels are you going to bring Him?

V. Bring the Vessels

    - A. When you came in this morning, you received a Faith Promise card. I want you to pick it up now. Hold it in your hand.
    - B. Before you look down at it, look up.
    - C. **You we not alone in this act of faith. Remember where we are.**
      1. That innumerable company of angels is leaning in over Pathway Church right now, cheering every single step of faith taken in this building today.
      2. Those spirits of just men and women made perfect — your grandmother who prayed for you, the saints who finished their race — they know exactly what you are feeling in your chest right now.
      3. They have stood where you are standing. They have held a vessel in their hands and wondered if their faith was big enough.

4. And they are on their feet in your honor, calling you up into the wonder of your future self and your high calling.
- D. This is not a moment that belongs to earth. This is a moment heaven has been waiting for.
- E. **Now look down at the card.** Let me tell you what is in your hand.
- F. This is a two-year faith promise, above and beyond your regular tithe and giving.
  1. It is not a contract.
  2. It is not a bill.
  3. We will not bother you about it.
  4. It is a prayerful commitment before the Lord — and it helps us plan wisely as we move toward the mortgage deadline.
- G. You may be ready today. Or you may need to take this card home, pray, and talk it through with your family. You can return your completed card to the Harbor and Horizon boat display in either lobby, or scan the QR code on the card to make your faith promise online.
  1. Some will give weekly or monthly.
  2. Some will give all at once.
  3. Some will give through stock, property, or another non-cash gift. The how is between you and God.
- H. But hear me on this: that card is not just a payment. That card is capacity of grace.
  1. You are not buying your seat at the feast. The seat is already yours. The blood has already spoken. The cup is already poured.
  2. You are simply telling the King how big of a jar you are willing to hold up to the flood of grace already pouring through your life.
- I. So before you write anything — do not consult your fear.
  1. Consult the King.
  2. Ask Him in the quiet of your heart: Father — You have already seated me at Your eternal table. You have already poured grace upon grace into my life. How big of a vessel do You want me to bring You for this mission?
  3. And whatever number He puts in your spirit — write that number down.
- J. No pressure. No guilt. Just a grace-centered, faith-filled invitation to seek the Lord and respond with joy.
- K. So here is my last invitation. The King who is asking is the same King who has already given you everything. He already loves you. Your seat at this feast is not on the line today. Mount Zion is still your home — whether you write a number on that card or not.
- L. What's on the line is whether your one wild, beautiful life finally gets tapped into the transcendent wonder you were made for — instead of staying small.
  1. **What wonder are you chasing?**
  2. **Good stuff or great stuff... temporary or eternal? A predictable life or the adventure of a lifetime and all God's abundance added to it?**
- M. Or a King-sized feast, a flood of grace, and a house full of souls that you helped carry through the door?
- N. Sign your name. State your Faith Promise. Bring your vessel.
- O. The angels are watching. The saints are cheering. The oil is pouring.
- P. Let's dream big dreams and pray big prayers to a big God who loves us better than we know.