



Key Point: We need to enter the Wild Blue Yonder
Key Text: Mark 8:1-10, 14-21

[**Author Note:** This is the personal story I used on new school years.]

With it now being the beginning of a new year, I can guess that many of us have probably made some sort of resolution or goal. Every year I was in school, I would typically say, “This is the semester where I am going to be a good student and have notes for all my classes.” I made it a goal to have a binder that separated out all of my classes with certain folders for those classes, all neatly organized. After Monday or Tuesday of the first week of school, that resolution was over and I immediately went back to procrastinating.

Maybe some of you can relate to that. This year we want to be in our personal lives and in our faith. This year we want our faith to become real and filled with action. For many of us, we may wonder how or where our place to do that is. It may be unknown, but this is the year for us to begin a journey into this wonder filled place called the Wild Blue Yonder. This is the year where we engage our friends, club members, and maybe even some teachers with the love of Jesus. How can we do that? What are we going to do when we’re there? That’s our journey. We are going to go into that place of wonder.

Pray

[**Author Note:** You can find links to the Moon landing stories here:
<https://www.space.com/17547-jfk-moon-speech-50years-anniversary.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/15/business/media/apollo-11-television-media.html>]

One of the greatest journeys into the wild blue yonder in the history of the United States is space exploration. This was prominently true in the 1960s when JFK was still president. One the challenges he had for America was to land on the moon by the end of the decade. In those days, that type of feat seemed nearly impossible. The greatest feat of any type in space

exploration so far had been spending a couple of days in space. To land on the moon, they would have to figure out a design of a rocket that could get there. Next, this rocket would have to provide enough oxygen for the astronauts. Then, they would need to find a way to land on the moon, and a way to get off the moon and back to their rocket with all the stuff they brought to the moon with them. All the precise and exact timing that went into this journey to land on the moon would have seemed, at that time, impossible to reach by the end of the decade. But, through lots of testing and hard work, NASA got it done. On July 20th, 1969, the Apollo 11 space mission to land on the moon was a success when Neil Armstrong stepped off the lunar module Eagle's ladder onto the surface of the moon, looked back to Earth and said, "That's one small step for a man. One giant leap for mankind."

The impact of this was huge. That's why 600 million people tuned in to watch Apollo 11 land on the moon.

This feat of sending man to the moon was all a wonder at one time. To many of us, we look out into space and wonder what exactly is out there in the wild blue yonder. In metaphorical sense, the same is true of how we can make an impact here, in **[insert town name]** and around the world. We look at the pains of the world and wonder how we can make a difference and show the love of Jesus. This is a series to help us get there. Today, we'll look at the need to go into the yonder and how we can combat the uncomfortable feeling we get when we do things outside our comfort zones. If you have your Bibles, go ahead and turn to Mark 8. Do you know about the story where Jesus feeds the five thousand? This story is a little bit after, and Jesus feeds more people.

Mark 8:1-10, 14-21 (NLT)

About this time another large crowd had gathered, and the people ran out of food again. Jesus called his disciples and told them, 2 "I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. 3 If I send them home hungry, they will faint along the way. For some of them have come a long distance." 4 His disciples replied, "How are we supposed to find enough food to feed them out here in the wilderness?" 5 Jesus asked, "How much bread do you have?" "Seven loaves," they replied. 6 So Jesus told all the people to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves, thanked God for them, and broke them into pieces. He gave them to his disciples, who distributed the bread

to the crowd. 7 A few small fish were found, too, so Jesus also blessed these and told the disciples to distribute them. 8 They ate as much as they wanted. Afterward, the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftover food. 9 There were about 4,000 men in the crowd that day, and Jesus sent them home after they had eaten. 10 Immediately after this, he got into a boat with his disciples and crossed over to the region of Dalmanutha.

14 But the disciples had forgotten to bring any food. They had only one loaf of bread with them in the boat. 15 As they were crossing the lake, Jesus warned them, “Watch out! Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod.” 16 At this they began to argue with each other because they hadn’t brought any bread. 17 Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, “Why are you arguing about having no bread? Don’t you know or understand even yet? Are your hearts too hard to take it in? 18 ‘You have eyes—can’t you see? You have ears—can’t you hear?’ Don’t you remember anything at all? 19 When I fed the 5,000 with five loaves of bread, how many baskets of leftovers did you pick up afterward?” “Twelve,” they said. 20 “And when I fed the 4,000 with seven loaves, how many large baskets of leftovers did you pick up?” “Seven,” they said. 21 “Don’t you understand yet?” he asked them.

In this story, we see an example of how the disciples thought Jesus was crazy. Jesus wanted to feed all the people in the crowd, but the disciples were like, “Jesus, we barely have enough food for us. How in the world are we going to feed this crowd?”

So, Jesus asked the disciples, “How much bread do we have?” They told Him they had seven loaves. So, Jesus told the people to sit. He thanked God for the people and for the food. He began breaking the bread into pieces and gave the disciples the task to distribute the pieces of bread and fish to the people. The people got what they needed and went home with full bellies.

This story may sound familiar to the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand, right? As we continue to read this story, we see that the disciples forgot to bring food on the boat as they crossed the lake. They had an argument about who forgot the bread and who was responsible for the mishap. I think this is a time where Jesus just looked at the disciples and shook His head in frustration. He knew what they were talking about and asked them, “Why are you arguing about having no bread? You have eyes,

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