

**THE BIG IDEA: We're filled so we can spill.**

### The Take-Off

What a unique day, and if this is your first time with us, you picked an awesome Sunday!

Having this service in a room that was big and empty and experiencing the presence of God filling this place in such a strong way is THE BEST illustration of what we're going to read in a key verse in Acts 13, but before we can get to that verse, we've got to lay a foundation for it.

There is simply no way we could have orchestrated this, and so I have to believe that God has put together every detail of the day in order to drive home our Big Idea: **We're filled so we can spill.**

And because that's true, there are 3 realities we've got to be aware of:

#### 1. You will spill

We don't need to spend a lot of time on this, because all of us know this is true

You and I were made to leak

Over time, things just come out of us and there isn't a lot we can do to stop it

That's because you and I were never made to contain as much as we were made to spill

We aren't reservoirs as much as rivers. This isn't new to us at The Gathering, because we talk a lot about how God flows to us so he can flow through us.

John 4:14 - God wants to flow an endless supply of living water through us that can be spilled out to others around us

When this isn't happening, we're stopped up and that's not good.

"Sometimes I have to poot, but I can't." (Parker)

Jesus wanted us to know this, too, and so he spoke the words we find in Matthew 12:33

You'll notice that this principle of spilling isn't reserved for the followers of Jesus

This overflow principle applies to the good tree as well as the bad tree

Know this: nothing about us was made to take in, and at some point, we will overflow.

I learned this at Outback as we celebrated the boys' birthday about 8 years ago.

#### 2. You will spill what you are filled with

I learned something else after the Parker experience at Outback.

Not only will you spill, but you and I will spill whatever we're filled with

Not surprisingly, what he ate is what I saw

We've all heard it forever - first your parents said it, then maybe a pastor

You hated to hear it, and some of you still do, but if you're an adult, a teacher, a parent, a leader in any role, then you've probably heard yourself say it:

What goes in is what comes out

In youth ministry, these were four words that youth pastors say a lot: Garbage in, garbage out.

This is a no brainer, and we've all experienced it

Some of us have probably experienced it in more embarrassing situations than others

You're in a situation where you simply react and you are amazed at what came out of you: a harsh word, a negative reaction, a lustful comment

We wonder where that stuff came from, but Matthew 12:34 tells us that it came from within us: the overflow comes from the heart

We spill what we are filled with

People full of anger don't smile when they leak out

People full of joy don't curse when they leak out

Good fruit comes from good trees and vice versa

We spill what we are filled with, and if that's true, our 3rd reality becomes critical

#### 3. Fill with the spill in mind

Spilling is inevitable. At some point, you and I will experience the overflow of the heart

Sometimes there is a gap between the going in and the coming out, but it will happen (Drinking coke and burping in "Elf")

If we know it's inevitable, then we need to fill with the spill in mind  
God does that.

We've seen this a few times already in Acts:

- Acts 1:8 / God promised a filling of power so they could spill out as evangelists
- Acts 2:17 / Peter quoted Joel and said that God poured out his Spirit (filled them) and as a result the sons and daughters prophesied (the spill God had in mind) so all could be saved (v. 21)

Filling for the spilling is God's plan, and it should be ours, too

Matthew 12:35 tells us to store up good things in ourselves (so we have good to spill out)

Let me give you some good things to fill up on, and some practical ways to do it

First, some good things to store in your life:

- The Spirit of God (Ephesians 5:18)
- The joy of obedience (John 15:10-11)
- Joy and peace (Romans 15:13) / another great example of being filled for the spill
- Blessing (Malachi 3:10)

And here are some great strategies for filling up:

- Be still (Ephesians 3:17-19) / Get planted and rooted...so you may be filled
- Watch what you're watching (Psalm 101:3; Philippians 4:8) / What we see affects what we'll be
- Know the word (Psalm 119:11) / God's word in our hearts means God's word from our mouths

### The Landing

Now, we're finally ready to read the first few verses in Acts 13 and bring this all to a close

The church in Antioch is doing something that it did a lot - worshipping and fasting

You could say that they were filling themselves, and in verse 2 they were sent on a spilling mission

God fills empty things, and the reason he does is so that the filled can go spill out into other empty things

Here in Acts 13:2, we find the overflow of the church being spilled out on the culture around them

Barnabas and Saul had filled their lives with the spill in mind

As a church, we want to do the same: we want to live near God (filling ourselves completely with his presence) so that we're ready to be sent to those far from him (spilling his presence out on them)

This room - this big, empty place - will be a house filled with pursuers of God in worship, in prayer, in fasting - IN

PASSION - so that we can hear him when he sets us apart for the works he's created us for

We will be a house that always remembers that we're filled - not so we can simply soak it all in and enjoy it ourselves.

We're filled so we can spill.

Let's pray.