

1. Jesus demonstrated that compassion is inefficient and interruptive (v. 13-14). When Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been murdered, He wanted to take his disciples and withdraw to a quiet and isolated place, but the crowds followed Him and were waiting on Him. Jesus set aside his desires and “had compassion” on the crowd and “healed their sick.” How do you react when your needs and desires are confronted by the needs of others?

2. Jesus wants to use you to accomplish His purposes (v.15-16). Jesus tended to the needs of the crowd until late in the day, until his disciples came to Him and urged Him to send them away so that those in the crowd could go buy food for themselves. What was Jesus’ response to the disciples’ practical request? What was the response of the disciples to Jesus’ seemingly impossible command?

3. Jesus grows your faith by putting you into situations where you are forced to trust Him in new ways rather than rely on your own resources and past experiences (v. 17-18). The disciples did not have the resources to do what Jesus had commanded on their own. Two hundred silver denarii could not have bought enough food and they obviously did not have enough food of their own to feed the crowd (John 6:7-9).
 - a. What do you think the disciples were thinking as they brought five loaves and two fish to Jesus?

 - b. How do you react when God asks you to do something that you know you have neither the talent nor resources to accomplish?

4. Jesus receives glory and people are blessed when we allow Him to do everything His way (v. 19-20). Jesus organized the crowd and after blessing the food he broke it and filled basket after basket for the disciples to take out and feed to the crowd.
 - a. What was Jesus teaching by requiring the disciples to continually return to Him?

 - b. What are you continually trusting Jesus for, or what do you need to start continually trust Him for?

5. Jesus’ leftovers are better than what we had (v. 20-21). After everyone in the crowd had eaten their fill, Jesus instructed His disciples to go and collect all the broken pieces that were leftover, and they picked up enough to fill twelve baskets (John 6:12).
 - a. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach His disciples by having them pick up the leftovers?

 - b. How has this idea of Jesus’ leftovers being better than what you gave Him been illustrated in your life?

Accountability Question: What is Jesus asking you to bring to Him so that He can bless it, multiply it, and send you out with it to bring Him Glory?