

You Feed Them!

Matthew 14:13-21

Welcome back! And here we go! Today is another lesson on service. Throughout the disciples' early journey, the book of Matthew has an underlying theme, an *arc* of sorts that leads to this point ----- *the feeding of the Five Thousand*.

This miracle, one of 35 by Jesus, is the only one recorded by all four Gospels. So, it obviously had an impact.

So what is the *arc*?

- Jesus calls disciples.
- Jesus shows power over healings, elements, demons and death.
- Jesus delegates authority to disciples who go and perform miracles.
- Disciples return.

Matthew 14:13-21

1) In the *arc* of your life, how has God revealed Himself to you?

We all have markers in our lives that make us more sure of who we are in Christ. For some it may be fairly recent. Yet daily struggles bring about new victories that assure us of the reality of how real God is. Every day I have to be humble as I seek God's presence and assurance.

2) What is the point of this particular miracle?

So, this is not a parable. It is a real event. I believe we can construe this as continued training for the disciples. When I think of psychological impact..... the only other things found in all four Gospels are:

- The story of John
- The Temptation
- Jesus baptised
- Jesus starting ministry
- 5000 Fed
- Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and His eventual crucifixion and resurrection

One middle event - this one we are studying today...

3) Why this one?

In terms of *literal and figurative and spiritual*.... this, as all scripture, is all three.

Again, here is the *arc*.

Deuteronomy 18:15-18 ----- Moses

John 6:22-66 ----- Jesus

Matthew 14 ----- Disciples

Matthew 28:18-20 ----- You

4) What do people look like who are spiritually starving?

You must know people who are in this state. It really is up to you. It is easy for us to say Jesus can help people.... just not through me. We say "Jesus -- Jesus -- those people are hungry --- do something!"

Jesus' response will always be "Feed them!"

5) How do people withhold spiritual food?

I think the 'how' is a real look inside, but then so is 'why'. But for the sake of growth...

6) How can you (I) do better?

Mark 6:52

'For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.'

John 21:15-17

'So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. '

"Feed my sheep."

Let's pray.