

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

More than Bread & Fish Matthew 14:13-21

How do you read scripture?

Hebrews 4:12

For the Word of God is **alive and active**.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Matthew 14:13-21

- Jesus just received the news that His cousin John had been **murdered**
- And He wanted to get away to mourn.
- But God had other plans!

Today there are 6 things about Jesus that we are supposed to get from this story, and it is **More Than Fish and Bread** being multiplied.

Jesus understands you - He knows and understands your loss, your pain, and your grief

- Jesus had just received word that His cousin had been murdered
- **Jesus knows John's eternal fate.** He knows he will be in heaven, **yet he is still moved by the loss.** He understands!
- **Hebrews 2:17-18** - For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that He might become a **merciful and faithful** high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he Himself suffered when He was tempted, **He is able** to help those who are being tempted.

- **Hebrews 4:14-16** – Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For **we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses**, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. **Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**
- *Are there any areas in your life where you believe God is unable to understand you? Where do you feel alone or trapped?*
- **Heb. 4:16** - Let us then **approach** God's throne of grace **with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Jesus loves – Despite His grief He stayed the course of the plan

- **John 3:16-17** – For **God so loved the world** that He gave His one and only Son, that **whoever** believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but **to save the world through Him.**
- John's death was no accident it was an act of sin
- Jesus came to die for everyone's sin, this included Herod's murderous act!
- Jesus could have avenged Herod but chose to love rather than retaliate. And to fulfill the plan

- *Are there areas you choose unforgiveness or attitude over God's love?*

Jesus is compassion – In His grief He taught them and healed their sick

- Rather than being self-centered Jesus was **other-centered**
- It is his very nature to be compassionate.
- **1 Peter 3:8-9** – Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.
- *How can I show God's love and compassion even in my pain or attitude?*

Jesus is relational – *"They need not go away"*

- We are going to keep this point short and concentrated
- The disciples were making a well-intended gesture for the people to go. Yet Jesus states **"They need not go away"** in other words:
- **Stay with me, everything you need is right here!**
- **He wants you to hang with Him**
- *Are there any areas in your life where you would prefer that He doesn't hang out with you?*

Jesus provides – Jesus provides even when life cannot.

- But Jesus says, **"you give them something to eat."**
- Jesus provided a real opportunity for the disciples to demonstrate compassion and the faith in providing for others
- In God's hands little is always abundance, but in our hands little is always little
- *What are some areas you need to trust God to supply?*

Jesus is free – His relational nature and gifts are free to all who are willing to receive it.

- Like us some came with different backgrounds and motives
- This wasn't Jesus condoning any of their thoughts or motives, but showing that He is free for all who want to receive His life nourishing changes
- **He freely gave to all**
- *How will you respond to His gift? How will you live in His free gift?*

Hebrews 4:12-13 – For **the word of God is alive and active**. Sharper than any double-edged sword, **it penetrates** even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; **it judges** the **thoughts** and **attitudes** of the heart. *Nothing in all creation is hidden* from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Allow God's word to sink in and allow it to change you, because nothing we do is hidden from Him. He is active, He is alive, He is relational, HE GETS YOU!