

“Recipe for Feeding Five Thousand”

(Matthew 14:13-21)

- Context: John the Baptist has just been executed (vv. 1-12)
 - Jesus leaves his region by boat for some time alone.
He has done this before because of John's difficulties (Matthew 4:12).
He was John's cousin (Luke 1:36)
 - The crowds follow Jesus on foot, and he feels pity for them and heals their sick
 - We are introduced to our problem when the disciples arrive.
1. **“These people need to go take care of themselves before we can help them.”**
 1. How many times do we say this today?
 2. James 1:27 - What we might call "religion" is useless when we do not care for those who are afflicted.
 3. Matthew 25:40, 45 - What we did for others in their need determines whether or not we are "Blessed."
 4. Galatians 6:1 - Does it ever say in this passage that this person caught in a transgression must be a member of the church, or does it say "anyone" or "a man?"
 2. **“They don't need to go away—YOU feed them.”**
 1. What happens when we send away people with a physical need, and then offer to fulfill their spiritual need? At least to these people, the physical need these people feel outweighs all of the spiritual needs they have!
 2. James 2:14-17 - "Faith" is useless when it is not powerful enough to motivate our care for the needy.
 3. Acts 9:36-42 - Notice who is affected by this tragedy, and that many souls are brought to Christ after it!
 4. Acts 6:1-4 - These are the same apostles who came to Jesus with the same problem--people in need of food. However, now they know what to do! Take care of them, or else they may leave!
 3. **“But we don't have enough resources!”**
 1. Excuses, excuses! - So you DO have something. Saying I don't have "enough" admits I have something
 2. Our idea of “enough” is different from God’s.
 3. Mark 12:42-44 - The widow put in enough, even though it was far less than anyone else put in.
 4. Matthew 10:24-25 - "Enough" is to be LIKE CHRIST (i.e. "Christian") in our suffering AND serving.
 5. Malachi 3:8-10 - It was never ours to have enough of it, so we're stealing when we don't give it back!
 6. II Corinthians 9:6-8 - We may work hard for our money, but who gave us the ability/health to work?
 7. Luke 10:34-35 - We are not fronting the load alone! He cared for the man, then helped one care for him!

Conclusion: “Well, bring me what you do have, and you will see what we can do together!