

Space for God Beyond Our Limitations

Week of July 19

PREPARATION

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen. Philippians 4:19-20

CONFESSION

Do not hold us guilty for the sins of our ancestors!
Let your compassion quickly meet our needs,
for we are on the brink of despair.

**Help us, O God of our salvation! Help us for the glory of your name.
Save us and forgive our sins for the honor of your name.** Psalms 79:8-9

ADORATION and GRATITUDE

I will praise you as long as I live,
lifting up my hands to you in prayer.

**You satisfy me more than the richest feast.
I will praise you with songs of joy.** Psalms 63:4-5

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION — Mark 6:30-44 *

The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat.

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	How do I relate to this?
Respond	What is my next step of obedience?
Rest	I receive God's healing and renewal.

So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat."

But Jesus said, "You feed them."

"With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!"

"How much bread do you have?" he asked. "Go and find out."

They came back and reported, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish."

Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred.

Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed.

ANCHORING PRAYER

"Have compassion on me O God."

REVIEW OF THE HEART (previous 24 hours)

*When did I provide nourishment (spiritual or otherwise) to someone else?
When did I receive nourishment from someone else?*

WISDOM

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 2 Corinthians 9:8

Our people must learn to do good by meeting the urgent needs of others; then they will not be unproductive. Titus 3:14

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.*

CLOSING PRAYER

**The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
O may Thy house be my abode,
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
While others go and come;
No more a stranger, nor a guest,
But like a child at home. [Amen]**

Isaac Watts, *The Psalms of David*, 1719.

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.
Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and guidance.
Speak and act from a listening heart.
Actively serve in community with others.