

February 11, 2024 – Community - BREAD

The people around Jesus recognized that he was special. They knew they wanted to be near him and see him do miraculous things...which he did. But Jesus' desire for their lives and ours is based in so much more than the "flashy stuff"! Join us this weekend as we step into the journey of discovering what Jesus-centered and inspired community really can be like!



Scripture:

Ephesians 3:14-20

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father,^[e] ¹⁵ the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. ¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. ²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

John 6:1-13, 22-23, 26-27, 33-35 NLT

After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. ² A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. ³ Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. ⁴ (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) ⁵ Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" ⁶ He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money^[a] to feed them!" ⁸ Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. ⁹ "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" ¹⁰ "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So, they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. ¹² After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." ¹³ So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves...

²² The next day the crowd that had stayed on the far shore saw that the disciples had taken the only boat, and they realized Jesus had not gone with them. ²³ Several boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the Lord had blessed the bread and the people had eaten.

²⁶ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. ²⁷ But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you.

³³ The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ "Sir," they said, "give us that bread every day." ³⁵ Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Questions:

- If you had to rank order the people in your life – 1 being those who are most important on down...where would Jesus fall on that list? Not where would you like him to be, but where is he really?
- Do you have true authentic Jesus-centered community in your life right now? If so – what is its gift to you? If not...what keeps you from it?
- Life is a series of choice after choice after choice. If you were asked what's most important to you and you made a list...would it be the same as how you spend your time?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: John 6:51

Thursday: 1 John 4:10

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 8:3

Friday: Exodus 16:4

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 10:4