

From Mourning to Ministry

Matthew 14:13-21

Big Idea: Jesus asked the impossible to test the disciples faith. When faced with challenges, do we focus on our limitations or turn to Him? Let's offer what we have, trust God with the results, and stay connected to Jesus. He can multiply our small offerings to impact many.

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus demonstrated compassion and ministry even in His own time of grief.
2. The disciples initially focused on their limitations rather than trusting Jesus.
3. A young boy's willingness to offer what little he had became the catalyst for a miracle.
4. Jesus can multiply our limited resources when we trust Him completely.
5. Our focus should be on what we have and can do, rather than what we lack or can't do.

Scriptures:

- ☐ Matthew 14:1-12
- ☐ John 6:6-9
- ☐ Luke 1:41
- ☐ John 1:29
- ☐ John 3:30

Opening Question:

Can you recall a time when you faced a seemingly impossible situation, and how did trusting in God change how you approached it or experienced it?

Discussion Questions:

How does Jesus' response to the crowd, despite His grief over John the Baptist's death, challenge your own approach to serving others during difficult times?

The disciples wanted to send the crowd away. Have you ever been tempted to avoid ministry opportunities because you felt inadequate or unprepared?

Discuss the contrast between the disciples' "we only have" attitude and the young boy's willingness to give what he had. Which perspective do you tend to have more often?

How does this passage challenge our tendency to compare ourselves or our church to others with seemingly more resources or abilities?

Can you share a time when God used your limited resources or abilities in a way that surprised you?

What does it mean practically to be "connected to Jesus" in our daily lives? How might this impact our ability to connect others to Him?

The sermon mentioned missed opportunities to minister due to self-focus. Can you relate to this? How can we be more aware of ministry opportunities around us?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally look for opportunities to serve others, especially when you don't feel like it or are going through your own challenges.
2. Make a list of the resources, talents, and abilities God has given you. Pray over this list, offering each item to God for His use.
3. Practice gratitude by thanking God daily for what you have, rather than focusing on what you lack.
4. Identify one area where you've been hesitant to serve or minister due to feeling inadequate. Take a step of faith to offer what you have in that area, trusting God with the results.
5. Commit to spending focused time connecting with Jesus through prayer and Bible study this week, asking Him to increase your trust and willingness to be used by Him.

Closing Thought/Prayer:

Lord, help us offer our gifts to You in faith, trusting that You will use them to connect others to Jesus and glorify Your name. Amen.
