

Bible Chat week starting 6 8 23

Matthew 14: 13 - 21

13 When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed those who were ill.

15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.'

16 Jesus replied, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.'

17 'We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,' they answered.

18 'Bring them here to me,' he said. 19 And he told the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

1. What do we learn about Jesus from verses 13 & 14? (You might need to look up the context.)
2. How would the disciples have felt in verses 15 & 16? Have you ever felt something similar in your life or in your faith?
3. Looking at verses 17 - 21, is this a story about **scarce resources** or is it about a **reluctance to share**?
4. If the story is about overcoming scarce resources, what would it tell us about Jesus? If it's about a general reluctance to share, what would **that** tell us about Jesus? Which interpretation is most helpful for us right now?
5. Being as honest as you can, what sort of things make Christians reluctant to share?
6. Do you think society generally is becoming more selfish? Try to give examples to demonstrate your view.
7. Can the church stimulate a kinder world with a greater sharing of resources? What sort of things could we do?