

ARE YOU IN A DESOLATE PLACE?

On March 23, 2020, one of Crown's staff, Dr. Frank Gonzalez, led our morning devotions focused around Matthew 14:13-21. It's the story of Jesus feeding five thousand in a desolate place. A close look at the passage reveals important lessons for us during this unprecedented time.

JESUS HAS COMPASSION.

- Jesus withdrew to a desolate place upon hearing of John the Baptist's death. Yet, when the crowd followed him, he had compassion and healed the sick. (v. 14)
- He's the "Father of mercies and God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3 ESV).

MAN TELLS GOD WHAT TO DO.

- The disciples, acknowledging that it was a desolate place, told Jesus to send the crowd away to buy food for themselves. (v. 15)
- We must learn to depend on Him. This requires surrendering control.

WE HAVE HIS WORD.

- Jesus told the disciples to give them something to eat. (v. 16)
- We will be tested. He wants us to trust Him when things seem impossible. Time in prayer and His Word renews our minds. His Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105).

STEP OUT OF MAN'S ECONOMY INTO GOD'S ECONOMY.

- One person gave his five loaves and two fish. (v. 17-18) John 6:9 says it was a boy.
- God wants us to come to Him with childlike humility, vulnerability and trust. He is able.
- "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think according to the power at work within us, to him be glory..." (Ephesians 3:20-21).

WE CAN OBEY BECAUSE HE IS TRUSTWORTHY.

- Jesus ordered the crowd to sit down on the grass. They obeyed and waited. (v. 19)
- “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” (Psalm 27:14)

GENEROSITY IS BLESSED.

- Jesus gives thanks and blesses the provision. (v. 19)
- “I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.” (Psalm 9:1)

GENEROSITY IS MULTIPLIED.

- The food miraculously multiplied. All ate and were satisfied. (v. 20)
- “Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart...” (Psalm 111).