

LIFE Community Sermon Notes



Far From The Madding Crowd

Matthew 14:13-23

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

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 their sick.

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 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 directed 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. 22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, Jan 27

Big Idea: When we withdraw from people to be with God we become more available to people and to God.

Key Verse:

Matthew 14:23

After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

Opening Question: How are you doing at removing clutter from your life?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders.

Read the passage.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Describe some of the elements in the crowd surrounding your life?**
2. This passage takes place after a significant event in Jesus life. What was that event and how do you think Jesus felt about it?
3. What were the needs of the crowds following Jesus? What did he do about it?
4. How do you think Jesus felt at the end of the feeding of the 5000? What did he do about it? Why was this important for Jesus to do?
- 5. Solitude forces us to be with ourselves and be with God. Why would this be important for us to seek solitude regularly?**
- 6. How can you seek solitude in your life?**
7. As a group spend some time just reading the key verse through 4-5 times. Focus in on the following words after each reading and listen closely to what god might be telling you as you reflect together: “alone”; “by himself” “to pray”.

Leaders Notes

1. *This series is followed up on Sundays with breakout classes. The booklets are called “Making Space for the Shepherd. Booklets from these classes are available online or in the office for the leader. There are some great follow up exercises in the booklet to keep your group on track.*
2. *There is a resource library in 2 Militia with some good resources to use.*
3. *Additional resources on Simplicity, Solitude and Silence:*
 - a) *Invitation to Solitude and Silence—Ruth Haley Barton*
 - b) *Celebration of Discipline—Richard Foster*
 - c) *Simplify—Paul Borthwick*

Retreat Options

- *Steve Macchia’s LTi program is one of the retreat and spiritual formation programs that Tom referenced. Their Soulcare retreat is the silent retreat the staff went on. Find out when the next retreat is and consider joining it as an individual or as a group. We will be running a retreat for Grace Chapel people on March 15th. It will be a morning retreat at the church.*
- *Grace Chapel is working on a silent retreat for individuals and groups. Stay posted for when this is available.*
- *February 12-16 will be a time of sacred spaces at Grace Chapel. At set times the church will be open for people to come in and spend some time in solitude and silence with God. Make us of this time.*