

Community Group Question Guide

Matthew 14:13-21 – The Way of Satisfaction

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

16 But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

17 They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.

18 And he said, “Bring them here to me.”

19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.

21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. ESV

Verse 13: “Jesus heard this.” Looking carefully at chapter 14 to this point, to what is Matthew referring? I.e. what is the “this”?

What was Jesus trying to do in verse 13? What does that crowds’ reaction tell us about them?

How does Jesus react to the crowd following him?

What do you observe about how disciples relate to Jesus in verse 15?

Why would Jesus tell them to give the people something to eat – how could they possibly?

What does the disciples’ reaction in verse 17 tell us about their understanding of Jesus at this point?

All the people were satisfied that is clear. But what do you make of the note that there were 12 baskets full remaining?

Does Matthew’s failure to include a count of woman and children bother you? What do you make of it?

How does this passage change your thinking / understanding of Jesus?

What do you think you have to offer up to Jesus for him to multiply and use?