



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS – January 12, 2025

Sermon Series: 'Flourishing' - Community in Matthew's Gospel
Sermon Title: "Mind Your Business"
Scripture: Matthew 14: 13-21
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

Theme/Concept: "You give them something to eat" - It's Jesus' command to ALL of His followers. Like His disciples (or "Ministers"), we have never been in the miracle business, trying to make something happen because of our own ingenuity, charisma or hard work. Instead, we are in the "Distribution Business", sharing what we've been given.

Icebreaker: Share about a time when you received something that seemed to multiply as it went on, such as a kindness, something physical or a specific gift.

Reflections on the Sermon: What points and insights from Pastor Bryan's sermon were meaningful and helpful for you?

Scripture Passage: Matthew 14:13-21, ESV

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

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.

Reviewing the Scripture:

Note: **Bolded** questions suggested for small groups that have time constraints.

1. Our passage this week begins with Jesus hearing some difficult news. Refer to Matthew 14:15 for a summary. What had taken place and who was involved?
2. Where did the Lord Jesus go and what was the result that we find in verse 13?
3. In verse 14 what did the Lord observe and how did He respond?
4. **Verse 15 outlined the disciples' concerns regarding the crowds. Give a summary of their viewpoint and action.**
5. **What instructions and dialogue took place in verses 16- 18?**
6. **Describe the actions of Jesus in verses 19- 21. What were the results due to His sovereignty, and how do we see the Lord's compassion for the people?**
7. **What heart attitude does it seem the Lord wanted His disciples to cultivate in this passage? Why?**

Going Deeper:

1. **In this New Testament passage what do we learn about the importance of taking time to grieve? What situations brought grief to the Lord Jesus in Chapter 14?**
2. **How would you share with someone why it is important to spend time alone with God?**

3. In what ways could our small groups and our congregation improve in the “Distribution Business” of sharing the good news and of physical resources?
4. What is it about breaking bread with others and sharing a meal together that unites people?
5. **What lessons do you think the disciples learned after serving others in these verses of Matthew?**
6. Why do we pray and ask for a blessing before meals today?

Closing prayer:

Our Dear Heavenly Father,

We praise you for your majesty and your sovereignty in all things. We are grateful for this Scripture passage that teaches us about compassion and serving others. Sustain us, Lord, and cultivate in our hearts the desire to be partners with you in the “Distribution Business” of sharing your love and provisions for your Kingdom. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your example on earth as you lived day-by-day among people. Grant us, Holy Spirit, insight and godly attitudes of service, as we desire to be living proof of a loving God.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Service Opportunities:

At the beginning of this New Year there are opportunities to invite others to join

- a choir through the music department
- mentorship relationships
- various services and opportunities listed on the TUPCSA website.