evocative exchanges

matthew 14-16

Pastor Jesse Giglio
Matthew 14:13-21
March 6, 2011

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

Feeding the 5,000

This story is the only miracle found in all four Gospels. Here's a paraphrase of the sequence of events, merging all four accounts:

The Lord interacts with the people during the day, healing and teaching. He then withdraws up the mountain towards evening with His disciples. The disciples spend time in conversation with the Lord, but then go and mingle with the crowd. The disciples sense the unrest among the crowd or possibly see them heading toward the Lord, and they go to the Lord first with the statement that the crowd has no food and should be told to depart to find it. Jesus looks up and sees the crowd coming. He states that they don't have to go and then asks Philip where the bread is to be bought. Receiving a negative response, He turns to the other disciples and tells them that they should give the crowd the food. One disciple then assumes that the order is to buy the 200 denarii worth of bread Philip mentioned. The Lord then asks them how many loaves they have. Andrew then goes to find out and comes back with the response that they only have five loaves of bread and two fish provided to them by a boy.

Take a look at the four accounts: John 6:5-14; Luke 9:12-17; Mark 6:35-44 and Matthew 14:13-21.

- Why do you think each writer tells the story the way he does?
- Jesus sought time alone. How does this look in your life? Do you find it valuable?
- How do you respond to needy people when you yourself feel in need?
- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your compassion level (toward the lost, the hungry, the homeless, etc.)?
- Do you tend to "figure out" problems rationally before consulting God? Have you ever experienced Jesus being the "solution" to a problem? Explain.
- Is trusting in the supernatural something you feel comfortable with?
- Jesus describes Himself as the Bread of Life in John 6:35. What does this mean? How does this story teach you about this concept?