



A child with an open heart

September 4, 2017

MATTHEW 14:13-21 NKJV – (13) When Jesus heard *it*, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. **(14)** And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. **(15)** When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." **(16)** But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." **(17)** And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

After hearing about John the Baptist, Jesus precedes to a secluded place, but the people follow Him to His destination. In **Verse 14**, we learn that He felt compassion for the people and He healed the sick. **Verse 15** tells us that the disciples told Jesus that it was getting late and to send them on to buy food for themselves. In **Verse 16** Jesus tells the disciples, "They don't need to. You feed them". The disciples begin making excuses in **Verse 17**. For more detail, this story can also be found in **Mark 6:31-44**, **Luke 9:11-17** and **John 6:1-13**. Let us review the book of **John 6:1-13**.

Phillip answered by saying we do not have enough (**Verse 7**)! Andrew sounds like he has a great answer, but how many people do you know that have great answers with no substance. In **Verse 9** Andrew undermines a child! His mind was not on Jesus – the one that can do it all. Jesus was healing right in front of the disciples, yet Andrew tells Jesus what the child has and undermines him.

Now, to the child. Imagine the child saying...You cannot have this! This is mine! Get your own! Do not call my name, I cannot help you! Now, the child did not say any of this. Instead, he worked to help the people. A child! A child who does not know better. A child who was not following Jesus (physically) like the disciples. Yet, he had love in His heart like Christ.

Ministry is more than just sharing with someone the knowledge you have. Ministry is more than showing people your gift. Ministry is about serving! What do you have to glorify Christ and help others?

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 22:45

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Your assignment is greater than that what you are entertaining.