

East Side Church of God

Life Notes

Focused on the Need
January 31, 2010

Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who were about five thousand men, besides women and children. –Matthew 14:19b-21 (ESV)

Text: Matthew 14:13-21

Life Observation: Life's greatest demands are often placed upon us when we are tired and weary.

*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. When he went ashore he saw the great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick—
Matthew 14:13-14 (ESV)*

Lens Adjustment #1: In our world we are often overwhelmed because we see the size of the problem while Jesus' divinity sees the size of the opportunity.

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." But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." –Matthew 14:15-16(ESV)

Lens Adjustment #2: In our humanity we see the limitation of our resources while Jesus sees the unlimited resources of God's blessing.

They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." 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. –Matthew 14:17-19a (ESV)

Lens Adjustment #3: In our humanity we are tempted to focus on our lack of ability instead of God's desire to enhance our abilities.