

Bible Study: With Jesus, you have enough

You will get more out of this study if you read the verses and ponder the questions several times a day. You'll also get more out of the study if you discuss it with others. Jesus says where two or three are gathered together in his name, he is there with them.

Monday John 6:5-8 (NRSV)

When [Jesus] looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

When Philip looked out, he realized that they didn't have enough. The need was overwhelming.

What are some situations where it looks like you don't have enough?

What are some situations where it looks like the world doesn't have enough?

Tuesday John 6:9-10 (NRSV)

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all.

It all started with a boy. They boy had plenty for himself, an abundance. But he gave it all to Jesus for the sake of the crowd, even though what he had was laughable in terms of the crowd's need.

What are some acts of generosity that have impressed you?

Wednesday John 6:11-13 (NRSV)

Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

It's possible that this story was just a one-time event. But Jesus did many things that were intended to be demonstrations to us of how to live.

The next time you face a situation where there isn't enough, how about doing an experiment. How about offering to Jesus what you have and then giving it away in the face of the need.

What happens?

Look at your list for Monday. Which one of these places do you want to practice giving what you have to Jesus and then distributing it, just to see what happens?

Thursday John 6:48-56 (NRSV)

"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them."

What do you think it means to eat the flesh of Jesus and drink his blood?

What do you think it means to have eternal life?

If Jesus is the bread of life, what will you do to distribute Jesus to the hungry crowds?

Friday John 6:66-69 (NRSV)

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

In John 5, we saw that many of the religious leaders turned away from Jesus because he healed people on the Sabbath. They thought such acts of compassion violated the commandment to take a day of rest, and a holy person would not be violating the ten commandments. In this chapter we learn that many people who had been following Jesus turned away because they didn't like his statement that they needed to eat his flesh and drink his blood.

What keeps you from following Jesus?

Do you agree with Peter's statement about him?

Saturday

How To Be A Christian (in four easy steps)

- 1) Talk to God about what's up.*
- 2) Do whatever God tells you.*
- 3) If you don't hear anything specific, do anything Jesus told his followers to do.**
- 4) Repeat.*

**Jesus told his followers lots of things, but here's a reminder of the basics: 1) Love God with everything you've got. 2) Love those you see in need in the same measure as you love yourself. (Ways Jesus taught his followers to love people were to announce good news to the poor, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons, and raise the dead.)*

What needs of the world do you want to talk to God about?

What are you hearing God tell you?

When will you take action?

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