



## **HOPE FOR THE HURTING**

**Matthew 14:13-21**

- **The world is full of hurting and hungry people who are desperate for help.**
  - About 9.2% of the world, or 689 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 a day according to the World Bank.
  - According to the World Health Organization approximately 280 million people in the world have depression.
  - The U.S. divorce rate is amongst one of the highest in the world, averaging over 750,000 divorces in the U.S. each year.
- **Too often the hurting and hungry of the world are turning to “help” that is further hurting them.**
- **The Church is God’s answer to the “help cry” of the hungry and hurting in our world.**
- *“Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.” (Isaiah 58:10)*
- Jesus - *“You are the light of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:14-16)*
- ***How can we be like Jesus and meet the needs of hungry and hurting people around us?***

***To Be Like Jesus And Meet The Needs Of Others:***

### **WE MUST BE COMPASSIONATE TOWARDS PEOPLE**

- *“Jesus saw the huge crowd as He stepped from the boat, and He had compassion on them and healed their sick.” (Matthew 14:14)*
- **To show compassion towards people we must *press into the Lord’s presence.***
- *“Then Jesus said, ‘Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.’” (Mark 6:31)*
- **We press into God’s presence through: 1) Daily Devotion times, 2) Life Group connections, and 3) Weekly Worship services.**
- **To show compassion towards people we must *push through disruptions.***
- *“As soon as Jesus heard the news, He left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where He was headed and followed on foot from many towns. Jesus*



*saw the huge crowd as He stepped from the boat, and He had compassion on them and healed their sick.” (Matthew 14:13-14)*

- **Most people would view this situation as a disruption but to Jesus it was an opportunity to minister to others.**
- **If we’re too busy to serve God and help others then we’re too busy.**
- *“[God] has created us for a life of good deeds, which He has already prepared for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10 TEV)*
- *Jesus - “Your attitude must be like My own, for I did not come to be served, but to serve...” (Matthew 20:28 LB)*
- ***What recent disruptions in my life might have been an opportunity for Jesus to show up through my life?***

***To Be Like Jesus And Meet The Needs Of Others:***

**WE MUST BE CONFIDENT OF GOD’S POWER**

- *“That evening the disciples came to Him and said, ‘This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.’ But Jesus said, ‘That isn’t necessary - - you feed them.’ ‘But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!’ they answered. ‘Bring them here,’ He said.” (Matthew 14:15-18)*
- **We must overcome the temptation to solve problems that arise in life with only our own intellect, resources, and abilities.**
- **Jesus has the power, ability, and resources to take care of any need or situation that comes up in people’s lives.**
- *“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” (Acts 10:38)*
- **Since we’ve been indwelt by God’s Spirit, we also have the power to see miracles take place in our life and the lives of others.**
- *“Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.” (Ephesians 3:20)*
- **We can become more confident in God’s power by taking risks and praying for people to experience the miraculous power of God.**
- *Jesus - “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in Me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” (John 14:12)*
- ***How can I become more confident in God’s power?***

***To Be Like Jesus And Meet The Needs Of Others:***

**WE MUST COOPERATE WITH JESUS’ PLANS**



- *“Then He told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, He gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers.”* (Matthew 14:19-20)
- **We cooperate with Jesus by having faith in Him, serving Him, witnessing for Him, discipling others, and giving to His work.**
- *“Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, He kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share.”* (Mark 6:39-41)
- **Like Jesus, we need to work with others to accomplish His work.**
- ***What steps can I take to begin cooperating with the Lord’s plans?***
  
- **We can partner with Jesus to meet the needs of hurting people by:**
  - **Joining a Life Group**
  - **Participating on a Serve Team**
  - **Ministering to People where we work and live**
  - **Finding ways to help underserved people and communities**
  - **Sharing our stories of what the Lord has done in and for us**
- *“About 5,000 men (including Jesus’ disciples) were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!”* (Matthew 14:21)
- **Jesus can meet any need that we have as well as others needs, but often meets our needs when we’re striving to meet the needs of others.**
- **When we’re compassionate towards others, confident of God’s power in us, and cooperative with God’s plans we’ll see miracles take place through our lives.**
- ***What is the Lord calling you to do in response to this message?***