



Engaging to Serve

Matthew 14:13-21

“Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied...” Matthew 14:19-20

Main Point: When you make yourself available to the service of Jesus and become aware of your surroundings the world can change when you choose to get involved.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

What is the last thing you did to serve someone else? Why did you do it?

When was the last time someone served you? How did it make you feel?

Have a Volunteer Read Matthew 14:13-21.

Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). We follow in the footsteps of a servant Savior. Jesus took the posture of a servant to lead people back to the God they were separated from, the God who loves them. When Jesus did miracles, it was not to bring attention to Himself, but to serve others and bring attention to the one true God. Jesus' feeding of the multitudes reminds us that we have multitudes to feed at our door, and we are part of the multitudes for whom Jesus served and died.

Serving our community well starts with **BEING AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS** (v. 13-15).

In the previous verses we find Jesus had good reason for withdrawing from the crowd. Despite his desire for solitude he saw the people and pitied them. How do we allow our stories to dictate who receives compassion in our lives? How can we follow Jesus' example?

When have you been moved by compassion to help someone in need? Share your experience.

To recognize needs in our community we must first be a part of it. What spiritual issues surround us, and what can you do differently this week to get out and get involved?

To serve well also requires **YOUR INVOLVEMENT**. (v. 16)

Matthew 5:14-15 tells us we are to be a “city on a hill.” How has the Church failed in this and instead hidden its light “under a basket?” What can we do differently to be more effective?

If we seek to be involved we must also be intentional as we engage culture. Read about Jesus encounter with a woman in **John 4:7-26**. How did Jesus intentionally engage this woman who was an outcast? How would you engage someone in a similar situation?

How can you be better prepared for such intentional conversations?

What are some ways your group can be more intentional with each other? What is something our group can do this week to intentionally seek to meet a need in the name of Jesus?

Finally, to serve well it takes **JESUS**. (v. 17-21)

What did Jesus tell the disciples to do with what they had? What do you have that you need to hand over to Jesus?

When we leave Jesus out of the equation then transformation doesn't happen. What can your group do to put the ministry of C4 in the hands of Jesus? What can we expect the result to be when we do this as a church?

We see Jesus meeting the needs of a multitude of people. How could satisfying the physical needs of a person (i.e. food/eating) lead to satisfying them spiritually? Give examples.

Read **John 6:32-35** in which Jesus speaks with the crowd after feeding them. How is Jesus differentiating himself from Moses?

Pray:

As you close your group time pray that God will open your eyes to what surrounds you and see with His eyes and His heart. Ask the Lord to show you how you might get involved in what is going on in the Community around you and give you courage to step up and be a part of the C4 ministry. Pray that our church and staff would continue to look to Jesus for wisdom and guidance.

Connect:

Call the church office (803.419.0989) or email jonathan@blythewoodvillage.com or james@blythewoodvillage.com to see where you can get plugged into Community Ministry today!