

PREPARING THE APOSTLES TO BE SHEPHERDS
(Matthew 14:13-21)

- I. Looking for SOLITUDE (Matt. 14:13)
 - A. Going to a SECLUDED place for REST
 - B. Avoiding potential POLITICAL tensions

- II. Finding no REST (Matt. 14:14)
 - A. The crowd FLOCKED along the ROADS to Jesus' destination
 - 1. He "WENT ASHORE"
 - 2. He saw a "LARGE CROWD"
 - B. Jesus felt deep COMPASSION for them
 - 1. Jesus TAUGHT the multitude (cf. Mk 6:34, Lk 9:11)
 - 2. Jesus HEALED their SICK (cf. Lk 9:11)

- III. Learning the SOURCE of PROVISION (Matt. 14:15-21)
 - A. INTERRUPTING the Lord
 - 1. The disciples were CONCERNED for the PEOPLE

2. They had no SOLUTION to the FOOD problem
- B. INSTRUCTING the disciples (14:16-21)
1. Jesus said, “Don’t SEND THEM AWAY”
 2. Jesus said, “YOU give them something to EAT”
 3. They had only “five LOAVES and two FISH”
 4. Jesus commanded, “BRING them to ME”
 5. Jesus ordered the crowd to RECLINE in the GRASS
 6. Jesus BLESSED the food and BROKE it up for distribution
 7. He gave it to the DISCIPLES to DISTRIBUTE
 8. The food was sufficient for 5000 MEN, besides WOMEN and CHILDREN
 9. EVERYONE ate until they were SATISFIED (cf. 5:6)
 10. The disciples each got a BASKET for THEMSELVES

IV. Lessons

- A. Ministry should be MOTIVATED by COMPASSION
- B. God does not expect us to be SUFFICIENT for the work, but to GIVE what we HAVE to Him and trust CHRIST to use it to accomplish His will
- C. When we EXHAUST our resources in service for CHRIST, He will SUSTAIN US