

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)



Devotion for October 18th, 2021

Matthew 14:1-21

Today's reading is from Matthew 14:1-21. In the end of this reading, Jesus is seemingly grieving the death of His cousin, John the Baptist, someone who was not only His family but a partner in His earthly ministry. It says Jesus withdrew to a desolate place, but still the crowds followed Him.

Already the people understood how important He was. They craved His teaching so much that they even risked their own health. It came time for a meal and very few had come prepared. But the Lord provided. He worked another miracle and cared for their physical needs, in order that He might also care for their spiritual needs.

Can you imagine what that would be like? To spend your entire day just sitting at the feet of Jesus, learning from Him? Watching Him heal the sick? I know in my sinful nature I would probably get distracted, I would take it for granted, and I definitely would have been paying plenty of attention to my own needs when the hunger set in.

Jesus provides us with an amazing example here, though. He doesn't just keep teaching and expect the people to listen to Him. He stops, He acknowledges their other needs, and provides.

As we care for ourselves and those around us, we should remember this: that there is a whole person in front of us who has multifaceted needs. Sharing the Gospel is absolutely vital and we should let that infuse our every interaction, but how can we expect a hungry, tired, cold person to be able to focus until those needs are cared for? I encourage you to remember the example Jesus set in caring for the whole person as you care for others, and yourself.

*God's blessings,
Marissa Kroenke, Deaconess Intern
Grace Lutheran Church & School*

Grace Lutheran Church & School | [Website](#)

