

TIME AND MONEY PRINCIPLES FOR A NEW YEAR

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Matthew 14:13 – 23
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MESSAGE NOTES

When Jesus heard what had happened, He withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place ... Hearing of this, the crowds followed Him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd ... He had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached ... 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 themselves some food." — Matthew 14:13 – 15

Two ways to view our time: possession or resource.

- When I view time as my possession, it's all for me.
- When I view time as a resource, it can be for others.

Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to Me," He said. And He directed the people to sit down on the grass. 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, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. — Matthew 14:16 – 21

Interruptions can be God inviting us into the meaningful.

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowd. After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. — Matthew 14:22 – 23

Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Solitude well practiced will break the power of busyness, haste, isolation, and loneliness. — Dallas Willard

I want to produce for God but only when I produce with God is He glorified.

Regular solitude transitions me from living for God to living with God.

Few people arise in the morning as hungry for God as they are for cornflakes or toast and eggs. — Dallas Willard

Daily solitude prepares me for Divine "interruptions" where meaning is found.

Questions:

- How can I schedule consistent unplugged, solitude with God?
- Daily prayer, "God help me see the 'interruptions' that are from You."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- As we looked at the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000, we discovered that Jesus viewed time differently than we often do. What stood out to you in the story?
- Most of us want to live a meaningful life. We also have busy schedules. Jesus' life reveals that the meaningful things (His miracles) often occurred as a result of Him being interrupted. How do you think most of us respond to interruptions in our lives?
- Mark said that we often view time as a possession, which causes us to think of it as being something for me. Jesus seemed to view time as a resource, which could be used for others. How have you seen the impact of people viewing time as a possession that's only for them?
- Dallas Willard famously said that Christ-followers should "*ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.*" Why is this so hard to do?
- Mark said, "*Solitude transitions us from living for God to living with God.*" How does spending time alone with God change our perspective so profoundly?
- How can you schedule consistent, unplugged solitude with God this week?
- Would you consider this daily prayer, "*God, help me see the 'interruptions' that are from You?*"
- Is there anything happening in your life for which our group can be praying?