The 5,012

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Before The Story

◊ One of the only miracles occurring in all 4 Gospels
(Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, John 6)

◊ Near Passover

◊ Disciples had just been sent out two by two

◊ John the Baptist had just been killed
Matthew 14:13

”When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

Matthew 14:14

“And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.”
Jesus’ Example

◊ Jesus wasn’t worried about his own needs
◊ Jesus’ main motivator was COMPASSION
◊ No alternative motives, he simply wanted to help
◊ “Sheep not having a shepherd,” Mark 6:34

Matthew 14:15

◊ “And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, ‘This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals’ ”
Disciples’ Example

◊ Focused on themselves first
◊ They acknowledge the need
◊ They acknowledge the issue is bigger than them (John 6:7)
◊ They wanted the problem solved, but they just didn’t want to solve it

Matthew 14:16, 17, 18

◊ “But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat”
◊ Disciples’ Rebuttal
  “We have here but five loaves, and two fishes”
◊ Jesus’ Response
  “He said, Bring them hither to me”
Matthew 14:19

“And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.”

John 6:14

“Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.”
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Reflections...

❖ Every time we say ‘yes’ to ministry, we are also saying ‘yes’ to experiencing the power of God!
❖ There is never a ‘convenient’ time to serve
❖ How many opportunities have we missed because we sent the crowds away?
❖ “The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed” —Proverbs 11:25 NLT