First Baptist Friendswood Students

Daily Discipleship - October 4-9

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 4TH

Because of Jesus's authority, we can trust Him to meet all our needs

CHRIST CONNECTION

When the Israelites were hungry in the wilderness, God provided manna from heaven. Jesus is the greater Moses, the One who not only provides bread from heaven, but who also speaks of Himself as the Bread who gives life to the world.

UNLIMITED CARE – Matthew 14

JESUS CARES ABOUT OUR NEEDS - MATTHEW 14:13-16

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 15 Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

JESUS HAS THE POWER TO MEET OUR NEEDS - MATTHEW 14:17-21

17 They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." 18 And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION - GOD IS IMMANENT

When we say that God is immanent, we mean that God is personable and relatable to those made in His image, while remaining completely distinct and unique from all of His creation. It means that God is not a distant deity who only sits on His heavenly throne with no interaction; instead, God created people in His image for personal relationship with Him.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

JESUS CARES ABOUT OUR NEEDS - MATTHEW 14:13-16

• Even while mourning, how did Jesus respond to the crowd? What does this show you about how He responds to us?

• How did the disciples view the people (vv. 15-16)? How can we be more like Jesus?

• Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to feed the large crowd?

JESUS HAS THE POWER TO MEET OUR NEEDS - MATTHEW 14:17-21

• How do the disciples view Jesus's power (v. 17)? How do we limit His power too?

• Why would Jesus bless the food before serving it?

• The people ate and were "satisfied" (v. 20). What does it look like to be satisfied in Jesus? Why do we struggle to be satisfied in Him?

What needs do you need to bring to Jesus, trusting he will do what's best for you?

LIFE CONNECTION

Seeing God meet other people's needs may give you joy. But sometimes we feel something else: jealousy. We watch as God takes care of other people's needs, but we don't feel like He is meeting our needs. We begin to ask the question, "Does God really care about me?" Like Adam and Eve in the garden, instead of trusting God and taking Him at His Word, we believe the lies of the enemy: "If God really loved you, He would give you _____." We question if He is withholding good things from us. We allow the thought to settle down into our hearts. And then, we usually progress into taking matters into our own hands, attempting to meet our needs apart from Jesus. What we must realize is that when we look to anything or anyone but Jesus to meet our needs, we'll come up empty. He has met our deepest need for salvation, and He cares for and sees our other needs as well.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5- JOHN 6:1-15

Have you ever run out of something you really needed? Maybe you thought you had enough money to last you through an entire trip, but you ran out way before the trip ended. In this story, while we see Jesus as the Great Provider, we also see Him choosing to use an unlikely candidate and multiplying the boy's offering for His glory. Notice that John specifically writes that the five loaves and two fish belonged to a young boy. Why would he include that information? In His great plan, Jesus doesn't use people based on their qualifications alone. He uses all who are willing, and He qualifies them to serve.

Jesus's ability to provide for the crowd did not fluctuate based on what the young boy could bring. The boy was willing to offer everything he had for Jesus to use. Surely, he knew that the five loaves and two fish he had would not be enough to feed a crowd of 5,000 men (plus women and children), yet he still brought all he had to offer. Jesus was faithful to multiply what the boy brought; Jesus took what could never be enough and transformed it into abundance. This idea doesn't just apply to the young boy but to all of us who are willing to bring what we have to the feet of Jesus, even if what we have seems like "not enough." When we let Him, God uses our talents, our passions, our abilities, our possessions, our money and multiplies them for His glory. There is no person too unequipped and no offering too small for God to use. Just surrender what you have today.

· Has there ever been a time when you struggled to believe that what you had to offer was valuable enough to bring to God? Why did you feel that way?

· What is our focus on when we struggle to believe that God can use us? How should we redirect our thoughts?

PRAY

Thank you for the gift of being involved in your story. Everything you've given me, big or small, belongs to you. Help me bring whatever I have to your feet, for you are the one who qualifies and multiplies my offering.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 - 1 PETER 5:7

In Matthew 14, we saw Jesus supernaturally meet a physical need of the crowd. We saw His great compassion for people and His desire to provide for them. While this alone is comforting, Jesus is better and more loving than we could ever imagine.

Not only does Jesus care for the physical needs of our body, but He cares for our soul, our heart, and our mind as well. This is why we are told to "cast" all of our anxieties or cares on Him. But what does it look like to "cast" anxiety on Jesus? Think of it like this: In Luke 19, the disciples had been sent for a donkey for Jesus to ride into town on Palm Sunday. Luke explained that they cast their cloaks on the colt and set Jesus on it (v. 35). Those that placed their cloaks on the donkey were no longer responsible for carrying them. They set their belongings on the donkey and trusted it to carry the load. In the same way, when we cast anxiety on Jesus, we are handing over a situation and our desired outcome and trusting Him to take care of it. We place it on Jesus's capable shoulders; we trust Him to carry our worry and anxiety; we don't pick it back up. Why can we do this? We can trust Him because He cares for us! He proved His love for us in giving His life for our sin. Casting our worries on the Lord looks like first trusting that He loves and cares for His children and then choosing to release control of the situation to Him because of His great love for us.

· Why is it hard to trust God with situations we're worried about, even though we know he loves us?

· Does God always promise that he will work situations out in the ways we want? Why or why not? What does he promise based off of 1 Peter 5:7?

PRAY

Father, thank you for caring about the well-being of my soul, mind, body, and heart. Forgive me for the times I've failed to trust you and tried to control a situation. Help me to remember your unending love for me and to cast my cares on you.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 - MATTHEW 11:28-29

After hearing about the death of John the Baptist, Jesus retired to a remote place to be alone, but the people followed Him. He had every right to send them away, but instead, He felt compassion for the people. His compassion led Him to heal those in the crowd who were sick.

Jesus allows people to come to Him with all kinds of needs—physical needs, emotional needs, and ultimately, spiritual needs. But Jesus doesn't just allow us to come to Him; He actually invites us to Himself, and He tells us that He will give us rest! What kind of rest is He talking about? In this passage, Jesus invited those "who labor and are heavy laden" to come to Him and receive rest. Jesus addressed those who had not believed in Him and were weary from their human efforts to be right with God. Many of us know this type of weariness; we've tried to reach God on our own too. It's exhausting.

All people are born with a spiritual sickness called sin. Sin separates us from God. But Jesus came, lived a perfect life, and died on a cross to pay the penalty of sin so that those who were separated from God could be restored to a right relationship with Him. Outside of trusting in Jesus and His victory on the cross, we must do nothing else to be made right with God. We don't have to earn approval from God because Jesus earned it for us! He invites those who are willing to come to put their faith in Him and to receive rest from the burden of sin and the weight of trying to earn God's love. This invitation is for us today. Jesus invites us to bring all of our failures and our striving to Him and to trust that His finished work on the cross was enough. We don't have to strive wearily for what Jesus has already done.

· Even though trusting in Jesus for salvation is all we must do to be made right with God, many believers struggle to rest in this truth. Why?

· What can this rest look like in your daily life?

PRAY

Jesus, thank you for giving your life and defeating death to make a way for believers to be made right with God. Help me to remember that truth when I'm tempted to try to earn your love.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 - 1 JOHN 3:16-18

In Scripture, love is not defined as a fleeting emotion but as an action. This means that when we love others, we might not always feel love for them, but we are moved to show them that love with our actions. In Matthew 14, Jesus not only feels compassion for the people in the crowds, but those feelings of compassion move Him to meet their physical need.

We learn from Jesus's example that love isn't complete without action. Jesus is love personified, and His ministry and message are based on His ultimate act of love: death on a cross to give His followers everlasting life. We, too, are called to show compassion to the people God places around us. In this passage, John encouraged believers not only to love others with their words but to love them "in deed and in truth" as well. What does this look like for followers of Christ? Well, John explained it as laying our lives down for others (v. 16). Just as Jesus sacrificially met our greatest need out of love for us, we are to look for and sacrificially meet the needs of those around us whenever possible. This may mean we donate time and money to help people in need; it may look like caring for a sick sibling; it may mean that we give away something we desperately wanted to someone who deserves it more. When we call ourselves children of God, we express that we have been given a new identity in Christ. With this new identity comes a new way of living; this is called fruit of the Holy Spirit and is proof of the change that has taken place (Gal. 5:22-23). When we say we love Jesus, then we're saying that we obey Him. And obeying Him will lead us to loving others through our actions and our words—proof that the love we have for them is genuine.

· What do your words and actions reveal about the way you love others?

· Is it possible to truly love others without expressing loving actions toward them? Why or why not?

PRAY

Jesus, thank you for being the greatest example of love, so much so that you gave your own life for the people you love. Open my eyes to see ways that I can actively love the people you have placed around me.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 - EPHESIANS 3:20

The boy who offered his food learned a very valuable lesson on the day that Jesus used his lunch to feed over 5,000 people: Nothing given to Jesus is too small for Him to do something miraculous with it. This truth applies also to us, even as believers two thousand years later.

God can do "far more abundantly than all that we ask or think"; however, for God to do more than we could imagine, we must be willing to surrender our simple desires and allow Him to carry out His greater plan. This is easier said than done. You may wonder, "What does it mean for me to surrender everything I have to God?" Surrendering means submitting to someone else's authority—to let someone else have control and to trust that person with that control. When it comes to what type of things we should surrender, simply put, everything means everything: your friendships, your efforts, your talents, your goals, what sports you choose to play, what clothes you choose to wear, and the list goes on for each of us. When we come into a relationship with Jesus, we die to our old selves and are given new life in Him. In our first act of surrender, we confess Jesus as Lord and Savior, and we agree to walk in the ways that He says are right. God's plan to use your life for His glory is better than your own plans, and His ways lead to abundant life. In other words, living surrendered wholly to God leads to meaningful life. When we recognize that everything we have truly belongs to the Lord for Him to use for His glory and trust that He can do immeasurably more than what we ask or imagine, we can live open-handedly before God and walk in confident joy.

• Is there anything you might be holding back from God? Why does the idea of surrendering that thing cause you to fear?

• Just like the boy in the story, God wants to take your obedience and use it for more than you can imagine. Why is this difficult to believe?

PRAY

Father, thank you for being patient with me when I struggle to hold my desires and plans with open hands. Help me to trust that your plans are greater than mine so that I can live surrendered to you.