

JESUS KNOWS EXACTLY HOW WE FEEL

Matthew 14:14-21

Introduction: There was a 10 year old child who had a dreadful disease and was deformed terribly. The children laughed and made fun of her, so did some of their mothers. Finally the mother of the little girl had enough of adults laughing at her little girl and when one of the mothers made a comment of how ugly the little girl looked, her mother socked the critical mother in the jaw and knocked her to the floor. Could you blame her? That was her daughter being made fun of. No matter how her daughter looked, she was her daughter and she loved her very much and was going to protect and care for her as best as she could. Did you know that God feels the same way about us as that mother did about her little deformed girl? Jesus showed that same care and compassion when He was here.

I. JESUS WAS TIRED AND WANTED TO BE ALONE SO HE COULD REST

1. Jesus crossed the sea of Galilee to get away from people but ran into more people.
 - He was tired but nobody asked Him how He felt.
 - Nobody was ever concerned with how Jesus felt.
 - Nobody came to give, only to want and take from Jesus.
 - Most of the people there would turn against Jesus later, yet He still helped them.
 - God is that way, you know. His goodness isn't conditioned by our worthiness.

II. THE DISCIPLES WERE MORE BOTHERED BY THE CROWDS THAN JESUS WAS

1. The disciples wanted to send the crowd away because if they stayed they would want Jesus to feed them, heal them, bless them , etc.
2. Jesus told the disciples to feed the people even though there were several thousand there.
 - Jesus saw an opportunity to love and help them.
 - The disciples only saw several thousand problems and didn't share Jesus' interest in the people.
3. Jesus didn't correct the disciples even though that day had been very hard on Him:
 - His dear friend (and cousin) John the Baptist had been beheaded.
 - There was an immediate threat out to kill Him (Jesus).
 - The crowds were immense wherever He went, thousands followed Him everywhere.
 - He couldn't get any rest as the crowds were so demanding and insensitive.
 - His disciples didn't seem to be able to help Him very much and didn't understand Him.

III. IN SPITE OF ALL THE PRESSURE, JESUS REMAINED CALM. WHY? HOW?

1. Jesus knew that **Everybody** was valuable, important, so:
 - He didn't stomp off and demand to be left alone.
 - He didn't tell the disciples to find Him a quieter place.
 - He didn't fuss at the crowd for not bringing their own food.
 - He didn't shake His head in disgust or disappointment in His disciples and their failures.

- Jesus stayed calm and even prayed for the people and gave thanks to God for them.
- 2. What did Jesus know that enabled Him to do what He did? **He knew how people felt and to Him every person was special.**
 - Remember the story about the little boy who went to a pet shop and wanted to buy the little crippled puppy? He wanted the puppy because he was crippled too and he knew how it felt and to him the puppy was special.
 - Our Lord knows how we feel because He has been where we are.

CONCLUSION:

1. To Jesus people were not a source of stress, but a source of joy.
 - What makes the difference between seeing people as a source of stress or a source of joy?
2. Place yourself in Jesus' position that day, try to feel what He felt. What would you have done?
3. Under what conditions are you willing to help others? What about those who are not Christians? What about those who don't like you?
4. Jesus overlooked His disciples' attitude and failures.
 - What has Jesus overlooked in your life?
5. Jesus knows how we feel and that's why He overlooks so much in our lives. To Him people are precious.
6. Knowing how Jesus feels about you, how will this affect your life?