

A. Examining the texts.

1. Read Matthew 14:13-21. What did Jesus do once he heard that John died and what do the crowds do in response?
2. Read Matthew 14:13-21. How does this story echo the stories of Exodus 16 and 2 Kings 4:42-44? How does Jesus supersede these examples?
3. Read Matthew 14:22-36. What did Jesus do after he dismissed the crowds and the disciples? Why do you think that he needed this time?
4. Read Matthew 14:22-36. What does Peter do with Jesus statement- "take courage, it is I, fear not?"

B. Meditation & application

5. How does Jesus feeding the 5000 + encourage us to bring to Jesus- whatever is in our hands?
6. How does verse 27 in this chapter speak to you about Jesus and about your situation? (Whatever it is you are facing)
7. I think that verse 33 is the climactic statement around these two stories. How do these two stories point toward this conclusion?
8. When you look at the story of Jesus walking on water and his statement about- being filled with doubt and having little faith- how are you challenged? In light of the fact that Jesus seems to find our faith pleasing how can we grow it? See also Matthew 6:30, 8:26, 16:8 and 17:20.

A Prayer: Lord- we thank you for sending Jesus and we thank you for his power and majesty. Help us to look to him and not to either our lack of resource or to fear the wind and the waves. Give us courage and help us to fix our eyes on Christ and to worship him as the Son of God? In Jesus Name- Amen