

Reflection Questions: Luke 9:1-17

For the message, "The Feast Jesus Provides" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on February 02, 2020

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 9:10-17

10 On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. **11** When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing. **12** Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." **13** But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." **14** For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." **15** And they did so, and had them all sit down. **16** And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. **17** And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Let's get started...

- Without a doubt, whenever we encounter the ancient gospels that testify to the life of Jesus, he did amazing things that could only be described as miraculous. Do you generally find it difficult or easy to accept these things that are attributed to him? Why is that the case?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Apart from the resurrection of Jesus, all four gospel writers—Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John—all wanted us to know about this miraculous feeding of over 5000 people on the outskirts of the city of Bethsaida. Surely they knew that this would be difficult for some people to believe. What can you conclude from the fact that they nevertheless told us about it, and where it took place?
- In the situation of an enormous crowd without food, what did the disciples focus upon? What did they see and not see? And why do you think Jesus pressed them to give the crowds food to eat knowing that they didn't have the resources to do it?
- Can you relate to the disciples as they saw only the enormity of a problem, but not the Person who could help them with the problem? If so, how so?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- If the disciples didn't understand the difference that Jesus could make in this situation, how do you think churches like ours can fall into the same error?
- George MacDonald once wrote, "Because you cannot see what can be done, you say that God can do nothing—which is like saying there cannot be more within His scope than there is within yours. One thing is clear: if He saw no more than lies within your sight, He could not be God. The very impossibility you see in things points to the region God works in."
 - Does this quote resonate with you? If so, how?
 - How can we as a community of faith help one another see beyond the horizon of our own vision of things?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this miracle help us make the connection that Jesus is the "bread of life" that can more than satisfy the deep spiritual hunger that people have in our community?
- What is the connection between feasting by faith on Jesus, and our desire to see others come to share in that same feast that Jesus provides?