



“Today, I start my new life!”

John 10:10

DINNER WITH JESUS AND 5,000 OTHERS

Mathew 14:15-21; Mark 6: 30-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:6-13

COMPASSION – Why am I unmoved?

1. Do I see a crowd in need the way Jesus does?

Our culture is slowly anesthetizing us and disabling our ability to see things the way Jesus sees them. We need each other's help to “wake up” and be moved to have compassion for others.

2. Would I feel uncomfortable giving Jesus my lunch?

At what point does being comfortable limit and hinder my ability to do what Jesus is asking of me? Being comfortable isn't all it's cracked up to be even though it makes me *feel* good and *look* good, makes things *easier* and *convenient*.

The S.T.I.R. Chart:

Four ways we pursue comfort (and how it can get in the way)...

The STUFF we buy...	The TIME we spend ...
The IMAGE we portray ...	The RELATIONSHIPS we have...

TAKE OUT: Let's S.T.I.R. it up!

STUFF & TIME: Am I spending my time and money well? Can I make some adjustments and put some things into the “*indulgence-only*” category, or the “*I-don't-really-need-that-ever*” category instead of feeling that they are a necessity?

IMAGE & RELATIONSHIPS: How will emptying myself and sacrificing in these areas, free me up to give all that I have to Jesus? How is being comfortable in these areas getting in the way of Jesus using me?

CONCLUSION – Pursing abundance instead...

Additional Resources:

- Compassion related resources -- themeetinghouse.ca/splash and africa.themeetinghouse.ca
- If It Were My Home – ifitweremyhome.com; Global Rich List – globalrichlist.com
- *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* by Ronald J. Sider
- *Friendship at the Margins* by Chris Heuertz
- *Compassion* by Henri Nouwen & McNeil & Morrison

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Read this quote by Mother Teresa: “Every time you sacrifice something at great cost, every time you renounce something that appeals to you for the sake of the poor – you are feeding a hungry Christ.” Does anything from the message this week help you understand this quote in a new way?

2. Recap the message and discover what God was “hitting home” with your group. Take time to discuss some of these things together.

Look to the Book...

3. Recap the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. Read both Mark's account (6:30-44) and John's (6:6-13). Share what stands out to you the most.

4. What is significant about Jesus working with his disciples through the whole “gathering/organizing/distribution/collecting” process? What did Jesus have to gain? The disciples? The crowd of 5,000?

5. Read **Philippians 2:5-8**. What did Christ give up and sacrifice? How did he empty himself? What might that look like in your life?

6. Take a look at your “S.T.I.R. chart” (stuff, time, image, relationships). What are some of the things you identified that you need to empty out of your life? (If you didn't spend time thinking about it, take some time as a group now.) Why did you identify what you did? How do you plan to “empty yourself” of these things? What will be difficult about it? How can the group support each other (think of really specific ways together)?

So What?...Now What?

7. How did you, your family, your Home Church participate in Summer Splash? Why or why not? Anything you learned? What challenged you the most? Take time to discuss how you might continue to LEARN, UNDERSTAND and DO together this fall.

8. Pray for each person and the particular areas that they are clinging to comfort and wanting to let go of. Pray for courage to empty ourselves, step out of our comfort zones and follow Jesus into difficult places. Pray for The Meeting House community that we will become more full of Christ's compassion and respond together.