

International House of Prayer of Greater Fort Wayne

...a day and night , city-wide, multi-church prayer and worship ministry

Rest and Provision in the Kingdom

While doing my daily reading in John 6:1-14 (Jesus feeding the 5000); I saw Jesus demonstrating something more than just meeting the crisis of feeding this massive number of people.

He lived in Kingdom Provision from the place of Rest!

There is nothing quite so discouraging as trying to do more when you have nothing left to give— when the body is exhausted and the spirit is depleted. That is just a little bit of what Jesus' friends felt as they returned from their first ministry trip. Jesus sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom and call men and women to repent, they had seen folks get healed and the demonized set free. It was intense and it was incredible. But as they rejoined Jesus' ministry, according to Mark 5, they found Jesus was doing much of the same- healing the sick, setting the demoniac free, and having people from the entire region come to Him. They were all tired and exhausted and to top it off the Jews wanted to kill Jesus and, according to Mark 6, they had not even had time to eat! So Jesus invited them to '*Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while*' Mark 6:30.

Mark tells us that people ran to follow where Jesus was going! It was out of control! Hundreds - now thousands- from every little village and hamlet in northern Galilee joined the throng. Notice what happens as we enter into the narrative of John 6. Jesus, who has not had time to eat or barely rest, comes to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (near Bethsaida) with a large crowd following Him. Then Jesus went up on the mountain and **there He sat down.....**with His disciples.

Now think of this from the disciples perspective, by Jesus invitation they were going for a time of rest and retreat - but having thousands of people who have followed and are now staring at them was not very restful or retreat like! John 6:4 *Therefore Jesus, lifting up His eyes and seeing that a large crowd was coming to Him (they are coming from every direction)....and said to Philip... 'Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?'*

Why Philip? Well they were close to his home town of Bethsaida.....so Jesus invites them to consider what a human solution looks like? Philip would have known where the local grocery was. Mark records Jesus as saying....'*you give them something to eat*' ...Matthew records....Jesus saying in Matthew 14 - '*don't send them away*' Now again why did He do that? Philip had arranged to have a boy bring them something to eat, it would not have been a feast but it was enough for Jesus and the twelve: 5 loaves and 2 fish.

Now Jesus is either being hard on them or He is inviting them to consider the insufficient and weak reality of attempting to bring Kingdom solutions with human strength. The only world they had known or lived in was a world where needs were met by human power, wisdom, and production....oh wait a minute that is the world we live in - in the west. A place where we have become convinced that humanity-in its own strength and wisdom- can meet most every need!

But Jesus gives His friends this blessed gift; a problem so big that none of their resources could possibly meet it! Philip tries to give perspective; this would be like 6 months of a working man's wages. Jesus this is beyond us! Really, the resources are not even near us - we are in a desolate place! Andrew is trying to be the voice of reason- here is this young lad but he only has enough for us.....*what are these for so many people?* (Jn 6:9) Its food but its nothing compared to the need. **Jesus all we have is NOT sufficient for the need!**

One of the greatest gifts of God in our life is to bring us to places and times when we become profoundly aware that nothing in our humanity can meet the need of the moment! Beloved, as we consider the state of our nation, the state of the world in this hour, and the overwhelming need of men and women, all too often we find ourselves evaluating the need based on our own resources. Beloved, we have been created to live in one of the most incredible moments of human history but meeting the need was and never will be dependent upon human resource!

What Jesus does next is counterintuitive to say the least. He instructs the disciples to have the people join Him - '*have them sit down*'! Can you feel the anxiety rising? Can you hear the internal talk? Jesus we just told you we DONT have enough bread and there isn't anything for miles.

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Rest and Provision continued

Jesus does not hold a committee meeting - He does not collaborate. He remains in a place of rest! Beloved I want you to see this, Jesus was revealing that His ministry in His humanity was not dictated by the need, demand, or pressure!

He instructs them to do what He is doing, to sit and rest. Now lets go back a few verses in John 5:10 *...the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.* Have them sit - do what I am doing, don't miss the power and simplicity of this moment! To be clear also notice Jesus does NOT, as some have attempted to communicate, invite the people to 'cry out louder and longer'. He simply invites them to sit and rest.

Now Jesus takes the lunch intended for Him and his friends. He looks heavenward, Mark 6:41—He is watching what His Father is doing, *...after He had given thanks He begins to distribute the food....*John (nor do any of the gospel accounts) does not tell us that He did this standing but while sitting - resting. He is simply doing what His Father is doing in THAT moment. In that moment the Father is speaking and moving and He is sharing from the heart of the Father! Jesus is resting and the Father is providing to the point that every man, woman, boy, and girl is fed! Not from the striving of humanity but the abundance of the place of resting in His Father! Oh my goodness!

Beloved as I began to press into this text in prayer I could see the invitation of the Father for this hour both individually and corporately. Who will we trust in this hour? Human ability, wisdom, and resource? The invitation? Come away and rest in My Father! Beloved the Leadership of Jesus in the Kingdom is OFTEN counterintuitive. When presented with a need or crisis He invites us to Rest and Rely on the Father who is still speaking today for every need and every situation!

Awakening the Song of the Heart—Musings of a Jesus Lover by: Denise Bouwers

My purpose in writing this Journal is to invite you to connect to your story with Jesus—to your own unique song! As you read and ponder the quotes, musings, and Scriptures presented in these pages take the time to consider the following questions:

- What is Holy Spirit revealing to me?
- What is Jesus' invitation to me?
- What is Father asking me to do or say?

You can order your own copy online at www.thebookpatch.com click the bookstore and search for Denise Bouwers.



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Ben and Denise, Please agree with us over these prayer needs for the next month...

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And the secret is simply this: **Christ in you!**

Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come. Col 1:27b, JB Phillips