

MAY 18TH, 2020: BRAAM FAMILY

BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS

MATHEW 14: 1-14



Here the story starts with John the Baptist being killed, his head was cut off and brought on a plate, of which the news was reported to Jesus by His disciples.

John who had preached Christ's coming and prepared for His messianic ministry was needlessly dead in the prime of his life. Jesus, human as He also was, wasn't indifferent to the death of His cousin John, reason why in verse 13 we see that Jesus took the boat and went on the other side because He wanted to be alone.

Just like most of us would do after hearing such a shocking and sad news. We'd want to be alone and away from people, we'd want press pause on our mission and duties in order to regain some inner strength but however, the Bible says that the crowd saw Him going there and followed Him by foot and so it happened that when Jesus landed on the other side, He had a huge crowd waiting for Him there already.

Now ask yourself this question, how would you feel if people still expected to provide for them and take care of them even when you're at your lowest?

One can easily lose patience and see them as being selfish but you ought to know that you'll always have such people in your life.

However Jesus' reaction is to be noted. The Bible says that when He saw them, His heart was deeply moved with compassion towards them and He healed all the sick who were in the crowd.

Although being the one who needed people's compassion in that moment, He still became the compassionate one who took care of others even when He was feeling down.

This teaches us a lot about the kind of attitude we ought to always have as Christians; even when things are not looking good for us; we can still choose to be a blessing to others.

Sometimes we justify our insensitivity to reach others because of some challenges that we are facing and we always expect people to understand what we're going through and to sympathize with us but we hardly ever try to be a solution to other people's needs with the little that we may have. The Bible says in Proverbs 3:28, "If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, "Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you." Just do it because everyone has something to give even when what we have is small.

When it comes to giving, one has to remember that there is always someone who needs what you have more than you do. So never withhold it just because you think it's meaningless or because you may also have your own challenges. The Bible says in Acts 20: 35, "In everything I showed you [by example] that by working hard in this way you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed [and brings greater joy] to give than to receive.'"



Giving exhibits God's heart, the larger our hearts and the wider our hands, the larger the picture we paint of God's character. Giving displays trust in God's ability to provide and the biggest obstacle to giving is fear. The fear that if I give away too much I won't have enough for this or for that.

We need to remember that when we give sacrificially, above and beyond what is comfortable and easy, we are expressing our faith and trust in God to provide for us and for our families, as it not only promotes God's work through us but also God's work in us; our sanctification.

Don't limit yourself by looking at what you don't have but be a CHEERFUL GIVER, for the Lord loves cheerful givers (see 2 Corinthians 2: 7).

PRAYER

My Lord, Today I can see how giving blesses me more than receiving.

There is so much happiness to experience when I see how You are glorified and how you use my giving to bless others.

So please Holy Spirit help me be a cheerful giver, that I may put your needs as well as the needs of others above my self interest.

In Jesus name
Amen.

