

# YOUR POSITION BRINGS PROVISIONS

## PART I: POSITION YOURSELF IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

MATTHEW 14:13-21

The first thing that you immediately identify in the story is that Jesus was looking for some alone time (this was because He heard of His cousin's death - John The Baptist).

It's important to know that there is nothing wrong with wanting to be alone; there is a difference between wanting to be alone and being lonely. The remedy to loneliness is to be alone with God because He satisfies every need. The people in the story were fully aware of Jesus' movements, so they followed Him. They followed because they believed that He had a solution to their problems.

Even though Jesus had received bad news, He didn't turn away those that came to Him.

The Bible said that when Jesus saw the people He was moved by compassion, this goes to show that He will not turn away those who go to Him. His arms are open, that's why He said in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest".

The call has been made for us to approach Him, and we already know that He won't turn us away. The question is, are we going to respond to the invitation that He has made? We answer the call by desiring His presence and positioning ourselves in it. These people's desire for the hand of God pushed them to follow Jesus into a deserted place. We all have needs of some sort, but where does that specific need push you to?

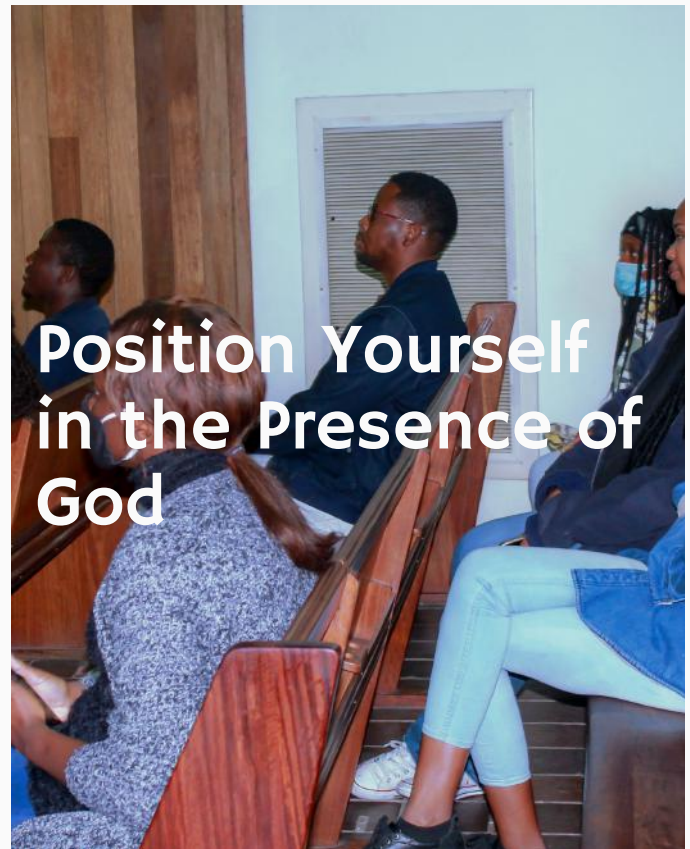
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There is an ideology that is being passed to us showing your ability to solve all your problems without the help of God. And as a result, we don't position ourselves in His presence because we feel that the time spent in His presence is almost a waste, and life is passing us by. We end up feeling like the moments of prayers or gathering with other Saints takes away precious time that we could have been used to find a solution. Notice that Jesus was in a deserted area. Sometimes the places that Jesus draws us to can seem dry, isolated and at times unproductive. The secluded places are not appealing to the eyes, but that where the solution lies.

The best that you can do with your time is to be in His presence. Never count the times that you spend in His presence as wasteful, and never believe the lie that you could be doing something better. Being in His presence makes you more and more like Him (see 1 Cor 3:18). Not only that, but you become productive, so you gain time by abiding. Being in the presence of God transcends the dryness of the desert, and you bear much fruit. "He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing", that what Jesus said in the book of John 15:5.



The Psalmist declares that "in your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalms16:11).

With the joy in His presence comes rest, that's why He told His disciples to SIT the crowd down. The invitation mentioned earlier, promises the responders that they will receive rest. So the solution is never outside of Him but in His presence. Because those people chose Jesus' presence, He healed them during the day and provided bread when it got dark. Choose to remain seated in His presence, because the best version of you is the one that results from abiding in Him.

