



SERMON NOTES

THE WALK FIVE ESSENTIAL PRACTICES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE *Matthew 14:13-32*

Week 3 (March 7):
“Serve: Here I Am,
Lord, Send Me”

- I. **Building Faith Beyond Our Comfort Zone**
 - A. When people tell their faith stories, they talk about stepping out of their _____ zone to meet a need.
 - B. God wants to use something or somebody outside of our comfort zone to stretch and _____ our faith.
- II. **The Feeding of the Five-Thousand**
 - A. Sometimes we sense a need and God says to us “_____ meet that need.”
 - B. The disciples did exactly what we do, they started making _____.
 - C. You do what you can _____ and trust God to do what only he can do.
- III. **Getting Out of the Boat**
 - A. Peter knew he could not just jump out of the boat; he needed to be _____ by Jesus.
 - B. When we look at our own _____, we forget to trust God.
 - C. Identify what breaks your _____ and what can be done about it. Then get out of the boat.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

If you have ever volunteered to do something for which you felt totally unqualified, then you already know what an experience like that can do for your faith. One of the primary ways God grows our faith is through serving others.

Monday: Matthew 14:13-17

The disciples wanted to send the crowds away so they could buy food for themselves. But Jesus said “you feed them.” The disciples used the size of the crowd and their lack of food as excuses to not do what Jesus asked. What excuses have you used when you felt God nudging you to meet a need?

Tuesday: Matthew 14:18-21

The disciples did what they knew how to do (hand out food) and they let God do the rest. What talent, skill, experience, expertise, or ability do you have that, like the loaves and fish, don’t appear to be things God could use in a significant way?

Wednesday: Matthew 14:22-33

Peter did the same thing he did when Jesus passed out the fish and the bread. Peter said, I don’t know how to walk on water, but I know how to get out of a boat, and I know how to walk, and that’s what he began to do. But then he began to look at his own ability and he forgot to trust Jesus. What areas of your life do you fail to trust Jesus and rely on your own ability?

Thursday: Exodus 3:1-12, 4:1, 10, 13

God called upon Moses to confront Pharaoh and tell him to let his people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. Moses thought of every excuse why he should not do it. Have you ever sensed that God was urging you to do something, yet you refused to do it because you felt inadequate or unprepared? If so, what was it? Why did you refuse?

Friday: Genesis 12:1-9

God asked Abraham to leave everything he knew behind and move to a new land at the age of 75. This must have been a very difficult request for Abraham, but Abraham said yes to God. When have you ever said yes to something God was urging you to do for which you felt unprepared? What was the impact of that experience on your faith?

MOVING FORWARD

Serving others enables us to experience God’s power in our weakness. We may feel ill-equipped and unprepared, but these opportunities are incredibly rich experiences through which God grows our faith. At first, you may perform an act of personal ministry or service in order to benefit someone else. In hindsight, though, most people feel like they are the ones that have benefited the most. Identify what breaks your heart and what can be done about it. That may be the very thing God will use to grow your faith.

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) comfort, B) build. IIA) you, B) excuses, C) do.
IIIA) invited, B) ability, C) heart.*