

Problem:

John 6:60-71 -even though many seemed to follow Jesus - they denied Him when His sayings got hard. This is a great illustration for the crowds, they were fans of His healing but they did not really trust Him or put their faith in Him.

Text:

In the face of unbelief

- Read: Matthew 13:53-58.

- How did Jesus respond to their unbelief?

- How is this a major judgment?

- Read: Matthew 11:20-27; 12:38-45; 13:10-17, 34-36.

- As a context to this passage these verses show that Jesus is pulling back His rejected offer.

and rejection

- Read: Matthew 14:1-12.

- How did Herod respond to Jesus' forerunner?

- How did Herod respond to Jesus?

- Read: Matthew 17:9-13.

- In light of Matthew's context notice that John's execution is pointed out here to show the break of the kingdom offer. From this point on Jesus is going to focus on His disciples.

He departed to develop the 12

- Read: Matthew 14:13-21.

- Based on verse 13, what was Jesus' response to this unbelief and rejection?

- Was this crowd that followed Him the exception to the culture of unbelief Jesus faced? Carefully read John 6:15, 25-44, for the answer.

- If Jesus did not focus on offering the kingdom to unbelievers, illustrated in His use of parables in chapter 13, why would He spend so much time with this miracle?

- If the audience was not the fickle crowd then who was it?

- Read: John 15:12-17, to find out.

- What lesson might the disciples have learned in this event?

Personally

- Read: Matthew 14:22-33.

- Who received this revelation from Jesus?

- Read: Matthew 17:1-9.

- Based on verse 9, notice that Jesus is revealing Himself to His disciples not to everyone else. This is a personal revelation.

- what does that show that Jesus focused so much effort on a few?

Purposefully

- Read: Matthew 14:34-36.
 - Based on Matthew 4:23-25, it seems Jesus is repeating His miracles but without the kingdom offer but instead with an investment in disciple making.
 - these miracles were signs to His new audience, His real audience, His 12 disciples.
- Read John 9:1-3.
 - If this blind man was all part of the plan, than what about the earlier two miracles and this one? What was their purpose, besides compassion?
 - The simple observation is that Jesus invested in His disciples to teach them in a purposeful manner.
 - What might we take away from this?

Perpetually

- Why would Christ spend so much effort on a few rather than the many?
 - Read: John 14:8-11. He wanted them to get it. He was the only God they would see and...
 - Read: 1 Corinthians 11:1. We are the only Christ that others will see. Discipleship is about imitation. It is personal, purposeful and perpetual. That is, it is multiplied and passed on.
 - Case in point, read: 1 Corinthians 4:16-17. Why would Paul send Timothy? As an example to imitate.
 - Read: Philippians 3:17. Who do you personally spend time with that you can purposefully imitate to become more like Christ?
 - Read: 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7. Who do you personally spend time with that can imitate you to become more like Christ?

Main Idea:

Discipleship is not a program or a 101 class but the personal, purposeful and perpetual act of investment and imitation

Sounds scary? How could we ever do such a thing?

Read: Matthew 28:16-20. Based on the sermon, how does verse 20, encourage you tonight?

Because Christ was with them, 12 ordinary men fed five thousand people
at some point you have to bring your meager time, talents or treasure to Jesus
and watch Him use you to do His miraculous work in others

Because Christ was with them, 1 ordinary man walked on water
at some point you must get out of the boat and look away from the waves and
the wind and with your eyes firmly fixed on Christ you need to get out of the boat.

Sermon study -Matthew 13:53-14:36 "A New Audience"

Discuss the following articles:

http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/200102/062_proximity.cfm

End your study examining and recommitting yourself to the mission of this church:
Our mission is to make "disciple making" disciples through the personal investment of our lives.

Here is an article about Christian education that I wrote a while back with a view to making a disciple who makes disciples:

http://www.barabbasroadchurch.com/images/resources/docs/christian_education.pdf