



Dinner on the Grounds

WK 64 Mt. 15:29-39

WARM UP: *What do you tend to forget the most often: names, birthdays, keys, umbrellas, etc.?*

The older I get the more forgetful I tend to be. It's easy to excuse it as just a part of the aging process but I wouldn't be so sure that's all there is to it. I find that when my life seems to grow increasingly stressful or when I feel like I'm trying to meet impossible demands, it tends to get worse. I forget more than names and appointments and dates on the calendar. Those things happen but what makes it worse for me is that I tend to forget the things that should not be forgotten.

Like what things? Who is really in charge. How much God loves me and the people he puts in my path. How most things actually depend upon God and not on me. Control is an illusion. I never really had it and probably never will. I am sure that you could add to the list as well. I know the disciples could because their memory seemed to be even shorter than mine.

READ ABOUT IT: Matt. 15:29-29

1. *Where does Jesus go when leaving Tyre and Sidon?*
2. *What does he do when he gets there? Who are the people who come out to see Jesus?*
3. *How does what Jesus is doing compare with the Jewish expectations of the Messiah (Isa. 35:3-6)?*
4. *How is this event similar to the feeding of the five thousand in Mt. 13:15-21? How is it different?*
5. *Does it surprise you that Jesus had compassion on this crowd that was mostly Gentiles when his primary mission was to the Jews first? What has changed?*
6. *When Jesus shares his concern for not wanting to send the crowd away hungry, how do the disciples respond? How does one account for their lack of faith and short memory of what Jesus had already done?*
7. *How easily do you forget what God has done in your past? Why?*
8. *How much do the disciples have with them? What is significant about the number?*
9. *What does Jesus do when they hand it over to him? What does he do with it? What are the results?*
10. *What overwhelming situations are you facing today? How could taking a moment to reflect on God's faithfulness in your past right now help you in your present?*
11. *Where have you seen God use your brokenness to bless others?*