

A Beautiful Mess

Embrace The Mess (Week 1)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Ideas

A people drawn by Jesus on mission for his purposes will always be messy.

Key Scriptures

An evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Matthew 14:15

Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. Matthew 14:16-18

And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. Matthew 14:19

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. Matthew 14:20-21

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. Matthew 16:18

Our actions often reveal that we want a church experience that is sanitized, safe, and scheduled around our priorities.

The church is meant to be:

- Founded on the person and words of Jesus.
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- A gathering where all are welcomed.

Start talking.

- What are the best things about church?
- What are the worst things about church?
- How do our actions as a culture reveal that we want a church experience that is sanitized, safe, and scheduled around our priorities?

Start thinking.

- Read Matthew 14:15. What were the disciples focused on? What problem were they trying to avoid?
- Read Matthew 14:16-18. Why did Jesus turn the solution back on them? What instruction did he offer the disciples?
- Read Matthew 14:19. Why did Jesus take the time to give thanks?
- Read Matthew 14:20-21. Was the situation clean and convenient or chaotic and messy? What does that say about the conditions Jesus is comfortable with? What types of people were present?
- How are each of the three pillars of church Pastor Joel described, present in this story?

Start sharing.

- Why is there a "draw" to a church that is sanitized, safe, and scheduled around our priorities?
- What are the pitfalls for seeking out such a church?
- Why does it matter that each of the three pillars of a church are lived out in the local church?

Start doing.

- How can you further commit to gathering consistently?
- How best can you serve?

Closing prayer.

Jesus, thank you for your Word and your life. Thank you for calling us into the mess of church. Help us remain grounded in you, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and always welcoming of all. Amen.