

The title for today's message is: **Jesus Put First Things First.**

Jesus said: **“They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”**

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Prioritize. That's what we're all instructed to do in this busy world today. As we make our lifestyles more convenient.

Yet, the more demands we place on ourselves, we simply find our lives becoming more frantic.

So, we are called to prioritize, to convert our activities into a sort of Top 10 list, picking what's most important to get done first.

But that's hard to do, isn't it. We get so inundated with distractions, making it hard to prioritize our life.

Isn't it true that everything in our life seems important, yet we know we can't do everything. So the vicious cycle begins.

Our Savior prioritized, that's right, Jesus “Put, First Things First!” Just another one of His truths that are valuable to us today. But, why?

Look, when the prioritizing of our life gets out of hand, and it surely will, we then grow in our faith and trust in God.

We know that the Savior of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ, is holding us in His Hands, leading us, and providing for all our needs.

Let me ask you. have you ever gone shopping, and just couldn't seem to find what you're looking for?

Instead, you find everything you don't need, it happens all the time the things on our list are nowhere to be found.

So, you become frustrated, and you lose sight of what was on your list, all because you didn't know where to begin.

For example, life can seem like a grocery list that's gotten out of control. We just can't seem to put, first things first.

Too many demands are made of us; too many expectations, too many dreams, and aspirations.

We quickly become overwhelmed by it all, for example: I, like many of you, have a cell phone.

Yet for me, I sometimes wonder why I had to have one in the first place. It certainly makes it easy, for everyone to add to my daily activities.

Therefore constantly rearranging my priorities, at any time of the day, no matter where I am, or what I'm doing at the time.

Look, the truth is, whether you're in the store, eating at a restaurant, attending church, or driving down the road.

Anyone can get in touch with you, for any, and every reason. And sometimes that's the last thing you need at that moment.

And we wonder why our lives are filled with so much stress, and anxiety. But it really isn't any secret, is it!

We try to prioritize our lives one way, and then someone, or something else, comes along, causing us to lose focus on what we need to do first.

Another words, we get distracted, or even frustrated. We get stressed out, angry, and even depressed.

Now, if you don't think this happens, just take a good long look at the crowd of people in our text for today.

Matthew said: **Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.**

Now, the news Jesus had just heard was that John the Baptist had been beheaded by King Herod.

And by this time King Herod believed that Jesus was non other than John the Baptist come back from the dead.

So Jesus now had to prioritize, because He knew John's death meant that His own suffering, and death, was now close at hand.

Jesus knew that king Herod was a madman, and that he might even hunt Him down and try to kill Him.

Jesus then gathered up all His disciples, and headed out to a private location, not to hide, but to have some time with His disciples alone.

Knowing His time on earth was now short, Jesus needed to teach His disciples even more about His Father's plan of salvation.

Now once Jesus and His disciples docked their boat and disembarked, they all were surprised to see a large crowd waiting for them.

Many in the crowd were there because they were impressed with His miracles, they believed Jesus was someone very special.

Therefore most, if not all of those in the crowd brought their own grocery list if you will. Their list of expectations, burdens, and concerns.

Finally, each one of them wanted Jesus to help sort it all out, they wanted Jesus to prioritize it all for them.

Now, in spite of His need for rest, and in spite of the crowd's mostly materialistic reasons for coming to Him, He had compassion on them.

Jesus doesn't turn His back on them. No! Instead He prioritized their every need.

Look Jesus not only healed their sick, but were told in Luke chapter 9, that: **He** (meaning Jesus) **welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God,**

There's just no doubt Jesus knows how to put, first things first in our lives, even when we don't have a clue.

He prioritizes our out-of-control life. He touches us with His compassion, and leads us to realize what needs to be first in our lives.

Jesus can handle the long, long list of things we have in our lives, and only He can and will satisfy our needs.

Now lets take a look at this huge list that faced Jesus in our text. Matthew said in verse 15:

Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

Here, the disciples were anxious, because it was getting late in the day. In fact, it was past the evening mealtime, and still the people kept coming.

It seemed like things were getting out of control, so in sheer desperation, the disciples began counting the number of people that were there.

And much to their surprise, they came to a total of at least 5,000 men and their families.

Now, talk about a grocery list that's out of control! What could the disciples do? Where could they turn?

How in the world, would they even begin to prioritize such a demanding list of needs?

Sadly, and foolishly, the disciples turned to themselves, to try, and satisfy the growing problem that faced them.

They started winding through the crowds to see if anyone had brought some sort of food that they could share with the masses.

But, how is it with us? When our life gets out of control, we too tend to look to ourselves, or to one another, for solutions.

We become disenchanted with our lives, and we quickly come to the conclusion that maybe we need something new.

And off we go, bouncing from one activity to another, trying to satisfy our own demands for pleasure.

Yet, before we know it, we realize that things are topsy-turvy. Our life certainly isn't any better.

So we begin to feel completely inadequate. Our worries, and our own inabilities blind us to the obvious.

That is, the fact that we have a Savior who loves us dearly, and who will care for all our needs.

Jesus said: **"They need not go away; (meaning the crowds) you give them something to eat."** They said to him, **"We have only five loaves here and two fish."** And he said, **"Bring them here to me."**

Now it seems that the disciples had forgotten all the miracles they saw Jesus perform prior to this.

Look, they saw Jesus heal the sick all day long. Yet, they missed the obvious solution. If Jesus could heal bodies, then He could surely feed them.

The disciples missed that, because they were too focused on the overwhelming need, and their inability to meet it.

Look, when we're overwhelmed, we need to take our unmanageable list, and place it in the hands of our Lord.

Let Jesus come up with the solution for us. Trusting that He will meet, and exceed all our needs.

In fact, He already has, hasn't He? He's earned salvation for you and me, no matter what may come in this life.

Look, the most important needs in our life have already been met, and Jesus has already prioritized them for us.

Five loaves of bread, and two small fish, is not much. Yet, in the hands of Jesus it's a feast. That's, putting, first things first.

Remember, in the midst of our hectic lives we have a compassionate Savior who puts our eternal welfare first.

A Savior who will provide for all our needs, physically and spiritually. And will guide us through this life, and keep us in the palm of His hand.

So today and everyday our first priority is to give our Lord thanks for putting first things first in our lives.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy spirit be with us forever. Amen.