**Reflections-08-06-17**

Expectations, trust, prayer, miracles

*“Have you given your God a chance?”*

Matthew 14:13-21

1. Jesus heard that John the Baptist was killed. He got into a boat alone to be by himself. How do you process the difficult realities that cross your path?
2. Jesus eventually comes back to shore and thousands of people are there to greet him. The people looked broken and in need. Jesus had compassion on them and healed their sick. Do you always feel that Jesus is on your side? Do you sense support in your Christian walk? Why or why not?
3. The day falls into the evening and the disciples ask Jesus to send the crowd away. Jesus said that they didn’t need to leave but told the disciples to feed them. The disciples were probably in shock. How do you feed 5,000+ people with a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish? Jesus pushes the disciples “to just do it”. The disciple do as Jesus asked and not only were all people fed but there were leftovers. Do you ever sense that God is pushing you to do more than you think you could do?
4. Jesus prays with the loaves of bread and the fish asking his father for help. If we see Jesus praying, that does that suggest about our prayer life?
5. Jesus asks a lot from his disciples. Do you think God asks a lot from you?
6. Do you expect miracles in your life? Have you experienced miracles?

**Matthew 14:13-21**

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.’ 16Jesus said to them, ‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’ 17They replied, ‘We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.’ 18And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’ 19Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.