

(Part 3 - Hungry for Jesus)

## What we need for a move of God

**Text: Matthew 14:13-21**

**v.14** - “He was *MOVED* with compassion for them, and healed their sick”

We have camped in the desert alongside this multitude of people who came to Jesus, over these past 3 weeks. We have looked at some really important lessons from this move of God in the desert.

Today, we will see how Jesus was *MOVED* with compassion, healed the sick and manifested abundance. We will look at how to see Jesus move like that in our lives.

I want to share **what you need** and also **what you *don't* need** for a move of God in your life.

### **I - There are 4 things you *don't* need to see a move of Jesus in your life:**

#### **1. You don't need an ideal environment.**

**V.15a** – “When it was evening, His disciples came to Him saying, this is a deserted place”

You don't need perfect conditions and an ideal environment to see a move of God. He can move in the desert! God's power is made even more evident in a desert, in an unfavourable place, when all the odds are against you and everybody says “it is impossible”. His power is made more evident in our weakness!

#### **2. You don't need time to be on your side**

**V.15b** - ... “this is a deserted place and the hour is already late”

Sometimes time is not on our side. Sometimes it may feel like it is too late. In this passage it was too late in the day. You may have heard the doctors say “it is too late for you.” However, it is never too late for a great miracle.

- It was too late for Paul and Syllas in the prison but at midnight the earthquake came and so did their freedom.
- In Acts 12 we read about Peter in the prison on death row. It was his last night before his execution. It was too late. However, in the middle of that night, God sent His angel and the prison door was opened, and Peter lived to preach another day.

#### **3. You don't need it all to ‘make sense’ in your mind**

**V.15** – “When it was evening, His disciples came to Him saying, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food”

It feels like they were trying to speak some ‘sense’ into Jesus. They reminded Him where He was (a desert), how little time they had (*the hour is already late*) and how little they had (V.17 – *we have here only...*) – as if Jesus didn’t know where He was, what time it was and what He had to work with! The disciples were basically saying, ‘this doesn’t make any sense’. In fact, there is another passage when they clearly thought that Jesus had lost His mind.

**Mark 3:20-21** - *Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. <sup>21</sup> But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.”*

The mind of Christ is different from the natural mind. If you want to see a move of God in your life, get out of your mind and get into the mind of Christ. The mind of Jesus reaches beyond the confines of human reasoning and logic.

**1 Corinthians 2:16** says that we have the mind of Christ. Paul was once accused of being “mad” (**Acts 26:24**) but he just knew the mind of Christ.

**John 6:5-6** - *Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” <sup>6</sup> But this He said to test him, for **He Himself knew what He would do.***

Things don’t need to make sense to the natural mind – Jesus always knows what to do!

#### **4. You don’t need to go away**

*V.16 – They don’t need to go away*

At the end of a powerful day where Jesus taught the multitudes and many healings took place, the disciples approached Jesus regarding a very ‘practical’, ‘non-spiritual’ type of need: people needed food.

The Jesus Who preached and healed can also provide. He can touch every aspect of our lives. Let us never put Jesus in a compartment and confine Him to Sunday church. No. Let us allow a move of Jesus in every aspect of our lives: spiritual, physical, provision, our careers, relationships, families etc.

Jesus said , *they don’t need to go away*. Jesus truly is sufficient for every one of our needs! No one ever needs to leave the presence of Jesus unfulfilled, empty and dissatisfied.

### **II - 3 things you need for a move of God in your life**

#### **1. You need to desire**

As I said before, although this story describes the great miracle of the multiplication of bread and fish, this is not the story of people hungry for bread but hungry for Jesus! They had an appetite for His presence. They were moved by a **desire** to be with Jesus.

**Revelation 22:17** - *And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever **desires** let him take the water of life freely.*

**Psalms 27:4** - *One thing I have **desired** of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.*

## 2. You need to believe

One of the reasons why these people ran to Jesus was their strong belief that with Him nothing was impossible.

**Galatians 3:5** - *Therefore He **who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles** among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by **the hearing of faith?***

## 3. You need to turn up

“Turning up” seems like a simple principle and yet this is where a lot of people miss out. The people turned up to hear Jesus. **V.13** says that when they heard that Jesus was on the move, they went to where He was moving. They turned up and Jesus moved with compassion and power towards them.. That is also what happened at the end of chapter 14:

**Verses 34-36** - *When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. <sup>35</sup>And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, <sup>36</sup>and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.*

In the parable of the Great Supper (Luke 14:16-23) Jesus spoke about a man who prepared a great banquet for his friends. All they had to do was to turn up. However, to his amazement and sadness, one by one declined. One by one, justified their absence in different ways.

**Luke 14:17-18** - *<sup>17</sup>and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for **all things are now ready.**’<sup>18</sup>But they all with one accord began to make **excuses...***

This parable shows us so clearly what God thinks (and how God feels) about people for whom He has prepared so much but who don’t desire and don’t come.

**V.23** - *Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

God really wants us to turn up. I am glad you turned up today!