

**Luke 9:12 - 22 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup>Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place."

<sup>13</sup>But He said to them, "You give them *something* to eat!" And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we go and buy food for all these people."

<sup>14</sup>(For there were about five thousand men.) And He said to His disciples, "Have them sit down *to eat* in groups of about fifty each."

<sup>15</sup>They did so, and had them all sit down.

<sup>16</sup>Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed them, and broke *them*, and kept giving *them* to the disciples to set before the people.

<sup>17</sup>And they all ate and were satisfied; and the broken pieces which they had left over were picked up, twelve baskets *full*.

**<sup>18</sup>And it happened that while He was praying alone, the disciples were with Him, and He questioned them, saying, "Who do the people say that I am?"**

**<sup>19</sup>They answered and said, "John the Baptist, and others say Elijah; but others, that one of the prophets of old has risen again."**

**<sup>20</sup>And He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God."** *Matthew 11:25-27. This revelation was not the result of Peter's own investigation. It came as the gracious act of God.*

*NOTE: It would be interesting to work out how much time Jesus spent, not talking, but easing men's pain and satisfying their hunger.*

**Monday Morning Moment:**

*"Christianity is not about knowing principles; it's about knowing a person."*

Paul did not say, "I know **what** I have believed"; he said, "I know **whom** I have believed" (2Tim.1:12)

**Lessons NOT learned: #1 - DRIVING PEOPLE AWAY FROM JESUS:**

**Luke 9:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup>Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, "Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place."

**Luke 18:15 - 16 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup>And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they began rebuking them.

<sup>16</sup>But Jesus called for them, saying, "Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

**Matthew 15:23 (NASB)** *The Syrophenician Woman*

<sup>23</sup>But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, “Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us.”

**Lessons NOT learned: #2 - Crowd sourcing can be dangerous:**

One thing is clear: We can never make a true decision about Jesus Christ by taking a poll of the people. (But some people do get their “spiritual knowledge” this way!) The important thing is not what others say, but what do you and I personally say? The decisions of the crowd (wrong or right) can never substitute for personal decisions.

- John 10:19 - 21 (NLT): The crowds were confused about Jesus Claims to Be the Son of God  
<sup>19</sup>When he said these things, the people were again divided in their opinions about him. <sup>20</sup>Some said, “He’s demon possessed and out of his mind. Why listen to a man like that?” <sup>21</sup>Others said, “This doesn’t sound like a man possessed by a demon! Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

There had been other correct confessions of faith prior to this one:

**1. Nathanael had confessed Christ as the Son of God (John 1:49)**

**John 1:48 - 49 (NLT)** <sup>48</sup>“How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.”

<sup>49</sup>Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”

**2. The disciples had declared Him God’s Son after He stilled the storm (Matt. 14:33).**

**Matthew 14:32 - 33 (NLT)** <sup>32</sup>When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. <sup>33</sup>Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

**3. Peter had given a confession of faith when the crowds left Jesus after His sermon on the Bread of Life (John 6:68-69).**

**John 6:66 - 69 (KJV)** <sup>66</sup>From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

<sup>67</sup>Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? <sup>68</sup>Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

**4. When Andrew had brought his brother Simon to Jesus, it was on the basis of this belief (John 1:41).**

**John 1:41 (NLT)** <sup>41</sup>Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means “Christ”).