



Week 4 – June 5, 2022

MAKING THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITY

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. **1 Peter 5:7 NIV**

- **Anxiety is a great indicator that we are human.**
- **Just because you battle anxiety does not mean you're a bad Christian.**
- **There are some that have a physical need for medicine.**
- **Anxious moments can be great opportunities for greater faith.**

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

¹³ As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. ¹⁴ Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ That evening 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 food for themselves." ¹⁶ But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them." ¹⁷ "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered. ¹⁸ "Bring them here," he said. ¹⁹ Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. ²⁰ They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. ²¹ About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children! **Matthew 14:13-21 NLT**

- **Jesus took time to be alone with the Father after John's death.**
- **Jesus gave the disciples an opportunity to experience greater faith.** ¹⁶ But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them."

- **Jesus gives us opportunities to trust him.**

Jesus Walks on Water

²² Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. ²³ After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. ²⁵ About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" ²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" ²⁸ Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." ²⁹ "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" ³² When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed. **Matthew 14:22-32 NLT**

- **The Disciples had another opportunity.**
- **Jesus said, "I am here."**
- **Jesus' presence in our life changes everything.**
- **Peter was willing to step out on faith.**
- **Jesus wants us to trust him and surrender control.**

Next steps for me today...

- **I choose today to focus on God's Kingdom.**
- **I choose today to praise in the present.**
- **I choose today to release whatever it is that's causing worry.**
- **I choose to give thanks for what God has done.**
- **I choose to trust Jesus with everything and surrender control.**