

October 15 Answers

- 1) The feeding of the five thousand. Jesus and His disciples were so busy they didn't have time to **eat** (Mark 6:31). When they tried to get away for a rest, the crowds figured out where they were going and got there ahead of them! Instead of being angry or frustrated, Jesus had **compassion** on them. He began to teach and heal the sick. This teaches us that ministry requires a **sacrificial** giving of ourselves to others. There will be times when we must put our own needs and desires on hold in order to help those God sends our way. When evening came, the disciples asked Jesus to send the crowds away so the people could find food in nearby towns. To their astonishment, Jesus said, "They need not go away; **you** give them something to eat" (Matt 14:16). As they stood there in consternation and confusion, Jesus asked **Philip**, who was from nearby Bethsaida, "Where are we to buy bread so that these may eat?" Jesus knew what He was going to do, but He asked the question in order to **test** Philip and the other disciples. Jesus was hoping they would say, "Master, we can't feed all these people. We don't have the money or the resources. But we do have **you**, and we know that with you **all** things are possible. Tell us what you want us to do, and we'll do it." (Lord, give me such faith!) Instead, the disciples focused on what they **didn't** have, and they missed the fact that the Creator of the universe was standing right in front of them. This shows us how easy it is to forget that we have God. In Him is all the grace and power and strength we need to be victorious.