

ANALYSIS:

1. What was unusual about the way Jesus prayed on the occasion of the feeding of the five thousand? _____
2. Why did Jesus not want the disciples to tell anyone that he was the Christ? _____
3. What saying of Jesus was hid from the disciples so that they could not understand it? _____
4. What was Jesus' response when John in jealousy told him about someone else who was casting out devils in Jesus' name but not following with the disciples? _____
5. What was Jesus' response when a certain city of the Samaritans did not welcome him and the disciples because they were headed toward Jerusalem? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Like most men today, the disciples were often preoccupied with debating among themselves who would be the greatest. But Jesus quickly set them straight that he was looking for a very different focus from them. He was not looking for greatness from them but rather service. Jesus told them that the disciple would be the greatest who humbled himself and served others the most. "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matt 20:28). He calls us to serve him today by serving others.

Following Jesus Christ is not an easy thing to do for it requires substantial sacrifice. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (v 23). In what way have you denied yourself today for the sake of Jesus Christ? What desire or passion have you put to death that you might walk more closely with the Lord today? Are you following him this day in close obedience to his word?

HELP:

1. On that occasion Jesus prayed looking up to heaven (v 16). This teaches us that there is no set way or manner in which to pray. We can pray anywhere and at any time. The Lord God hears the prayers of the righteous.
2. Jesus was not a self-promoter. His mission was to serve others and do his Father's will on the cross of Calvary. When good men asked him who he was, he told them the truth.
3. The saying that Jesus was going to be delivered into the hands of men and killed (vv 22,44).
4. "Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us" (v 50). Jesus did not have a problem with a righteous man using his name to cast out devils, even if that man did not follow him just like the twelve disciples were.
5. He simply went to another city. He rebuked James and John for wanting to call fire down from heaven on that city. He told them that he had not come to destroy men's lives but to save them (vv 52-56).