

Step Out of the Crowd

Equity is Not the Objective

Crowds & Jesus

Matthew 7:28–8:1 (NIV®)

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. ⁸ When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him.

Jesus Apart from the Crowd

Luke 5:15–16 (NIV®)

¹⁵ Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But **Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.**

I. Peter, James & John

A. Front Row for a Miracle

Luke 8:51–56 (NIV®)

⁵¹ When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. ⁵² Meanwhile, **all the people were wailing and mourning for her.** "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep." ⁵³ **They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.** ⁵⁴ But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!"

⁵⁵ Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat.

⁵⁶ Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

Acts 9:39–41 (NIV®)

³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. ⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive.

B. Experience Life Beyond Time

Luke 9:28–36 (NIV®)

²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, **he took Peter, John and James** with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. ³¹ They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) ³⁴ While he was speaking, a

cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

C. The Courage Required for Obedience

Mark 14:32–36 (NIV®)

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

³³ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

³⁴ "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." ³⁵ **Going a little farther**, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ "*Abba*, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

D. This Gets Personal

Acts 12:1–3 (NIV®)

¹ It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ² He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. ³ When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

II. New Response —Let's Pray

Luke 18:1 (NIV®)

Men ought always to pray and never give up.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV®)

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but **in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.** ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Let's Pray "for your family"

Let's Pray "at school"

Let's Pray "in the neighborhood"

Let's Pray "at work"

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Help us learn to be more conscious of You. Holy Spirit open our eyes to see and our hearts to receive. Give us boldness to speak Your word, extend Your hand to heal and to do miraculous things in the majestic name of Jesus. May Your Kingdom be extended, amen.