

They Followed Him On Foot

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. (Matt. 14:13-21)

1. Introduce Badwater and regular marathons- what's the meaning of this?
2. Matthew's Badwater
 - Disciples' question; John's death and Jesus runs off
 - Crowd then runs off; Jesus heals
 - Disciples try to get rid of them; Jesus says you give them yourselves
 - We have nothing; the impotence we feel
 - Christ's good news- bring what you have to me
3. Amazing thing about the badwater- the crews, not the runners.
 - They gave themselves (and they didn't even get a belt buckle)
 - Angela Brunson and ice cream sandwiches
4. We're all ultramarathoners; and church exists every so often to remind us who we are, and to restore us; the food this week; and this- this table- this is our bliss.