A Vision For All The Saints

Malachi 3:6-18, Ephesians 3:14-21, Matthew 14:13-21

One of the things that surprised us when we moved here was the fascination with _____ World. There is certainly plenty to admire about Walt and his _____ for Orlando. Some saw swamp that could never be developed. He saw the most _____ place on earth. His vision didn't pan out precisely as he anticipated. But Orlando sure is a lot closer to that than what it was!

In Matthew 14, the disciples saw a _____ that needed to "go away." But Jesus had a vision. He saw an opportunity to teach, to build faith, to _____ God and demonstrate his _____ resources. So, he asked them for what they _____, nothing more and nothing less. He solved the problem and showed them, "...*who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think*…"

That was just the _____. A reasonable person could have looked at us humans and thought we were a problem to make "go away." Humans were made in the image of God, rejected him, embraced _____, caused immense chaos, evil, pain and suffering. It's hard to watch good kids throw it all away.

But the Lord saw something else. He saw an _____ to teach, to build faith, and to display his glory and demonstrate the abundance of his _____. He had a vision of an incredible _____ that included redeemed and restored _____ transformed by his love. He had a vision of a new heaven and a new earth even better than what he created in the beginning. So, he sent his Son, Jesus. He gave, not just his lunch, but what was most _____ to him.

Then he sent his _____ to empower believers to see what others don't OR have _____ to believe and trust in God enough to _____ even when they couldn't see it. There were the "*Tenacious Ten*" and their "*Tireless Trailblazing Teacher*." There were the "*Bold Bureaucrats*" who "*bet beaucoup bucks*". There was the "*Chalmette Shore to Shore Shining Star Shepherd*." Others had a vision in 1964, 1983, 1988, 2010, and 2015.

What do you see? Problems that need to "go away"? Challenges someone else should address? Jesus says, "...*you give them something to eat*."

There are _____ all around us, in our facility and on our doorstep every day. Just because we have paid all our bills doesn't mean we are fulfilling God's _____ for Open Arms. Just because the doors are still open doesn't mean we're doing what it takes to fulfill our mission or see the floodgates _____ as God rains down *abundantly more* than all we ask or imagine.

In response to the abundance of God's love, that he would not spare his only Son for YOU, and in response to the abundant faith, generosity, and dedication of Saints past and present to bless you through Open Arms:

What will you GIVE financially in faith that God has more in store for us than we can see with our eyes?

What will you DO to support the ministry of this congregation as it serves little ones, the least, and the left out?

Who will you REACH with the Good News of Jesus Christ where you live, work, and play?

What are you willing to SACRIFICE to see God's abundance bless our congregation and community?