

## Distractions

Jesus tries to tell James, John, Peter and Andrew a parable but they are distracted by other things.

Jesus: Gather round for minute, will you guys? I've something I'd like to tell you.

James: And I've got something to tell you and all. The synagogue's in a terrible state. The drainpipes are clogged, the roof leaks, the garden's full of weeds and the windows are cracked.

Jesus: Okay, of course that's important stuff, it really is - but so is this. There was once a man who had two sons...

Peter: My dad had two sons, me and my brother, he always favoured my brother. Always. So unfair.

Andrew: he didn't!

Peter: He did!

Jesus: Anyway, the younger of the two sons went to his father...

John: I'm the youngest in our house. Could never get a word in.

Jesus: I think I know how you feel. Look, how about we just go out in your boat for a while, Peter. Get away from the distractions. Focus a little.

James: His boat? Have you seen the state? It's like a sieve!

Peter: It is not!

James: Yes it is, we're going to have to have a sponsored boat race or something to raise the money. I wouldn't do anything till we've fixed it up.

John: How could we have a sponsored boat race if his boat's broken?

Andrew: I could shave half my beard off.

James: What?

Andrew: To raise some money. People do that don't they? Or I could sit in a bath of cold honey and locusts for a day.

Andrew: How about crowdfunding? That would raise a bit.

Jesus: If you'll just come out on the water I'll show you where there's a massive catch of fish, that will help you raise some money.

Peter: Doubt it. There's nothing out there at the moment. We know what we're talking about Jesus.

Jesus: Well, okay then, let me just finish the tale, these two sons, the father split the inheritance and the younger son went off.

James: Not if he had shoes like his. Look at them.

John: What's wrong with my shoes?

James: What's right with them? They need a complete overhaul.

John: No they don't.

James: Yes they do.

John: Don't!

James: Never mind that story of the two sons, I think we need to focus on some important things for a while. The synagogue, his shoes, Peter's boat.

Peter: There's nothing wrong with my boat!

James: Don't make me laugh!

Peter: I'll make you do something in a minute!

Jesus: All right, all right, ease off there. You're right. Those things are important, but let me say this - don't be like a man who spends his life building barns so he can store up everything, putting off the day when he might actually do something with the things inside.

James: What?

Jesus: Don't spend your time focussing on a fly in your drink, when there's a dead dog in your water tank to sort out.

They nod, scratch their heads, frown, wonder.

James: So... are you saying there's a problem with the water supply?? I could have a look at it for you...