

THIS WEEK’S MESSAGE

JULY 19TH–20TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

BALANCE (MARK 6:30–34) BACK TO THE MINISTRY

After the brief flashback about John’s death, the narrative of Jesus and the 12 resumes. The disciples were excited about all of the amazing things they witnessed while preaching and praying for people, but they were also exhausted and had not even paused long enough to eat.

“COME AWAY...AND REST FOR A WHILE”

Because the disciples were obedient and worked hard, Jesus had compassion and encouraged them to find **balance** and rest.

- **Rest is earned through hard work. We struggle with biblical rest. We often neglect it, don’t understand it, or we over-compensate and never truly get filled up.**

SO THEY TRIED TO GET SOME SOLACE

They all got in a boat and went to the northeastern side of the Sea of Galilee, but in the process, people spotted them and walked 4 miles to the shore where they were headed.

- Jesus did not see the people as an inconvenience (the 12 may have) but, instead, had “compassion on them.”

WHY SO MUCH COMPASSION?

The people were like “sheep without a shepherd.” Sheep get lost easily. When they do, they go hungry, die of thirst, or wolves devour them.

- **Without a light, we cannot see. Without a leader, we get lost. Without a standard by which to live, we “starve” and are devoured by life.**

CONTRASTING BANQUETS (MARK 6:35–44) THE DISCIPLES SHOWED COMPASSION TOO

The 12 were concerned the crowd wouldn’t be able to eat because they were in a remote area. They could’ve walked a ways to a market, but the 12 didn’t want them to miss any teaching.

- **We will never perfectly love like Jesus, but we are to genuinely care for the souls and well-being of all people.**

“YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT”

This is probably not the response the 12 expected or wanted. It also seems they had forgotten all the provision on the road because they calculated how much money they would need to buy enough bread for the crowd.

- **How often do we forget the times God has provided in the past?**

AN INTERESTING OBSERVATION

Notice that the people came to hear the truth first, and then their physical needs were met.

- Community service is important and biblical, but **we cannot shy away from teaching the truth of Christ to the people we serve. This actually does them a great disservice.**

5,000 TO 15,000 PEOPLE

The crowd was extremely large (5,000 men). After Jesus asked what they had on hand, they realized that **their resources were inadequate.**

- What they could muster up was five small barley loaves and two fish—a typical meal for a poor person in that time.

JESUS HAD THEM PUT THE PEOPLE IN GROUPS

Jesus publicly blessed the food so they would know God provides. Jesus also chose to have His disciples participate in the miracle because **they recognized the need.**

- **Though He is the source, Christians are often vessels of His blessings. This is an honor and a serious responsibility.**

EVERYONE ATE, AND THEY EVEN HAD LEFTOVERS

Kingdom resources never run out, but we must remember the source for our needs.

- Many think the 12 leftover baskets represent the 12 tribes of Israel. It makes more sense that the 12 baskets were food for the 12 disciples the next day. **God provides for those who serve with Him.**

THE CONTRAST TO HEROD’S BANQUET

Earlier in this chapter, we read about Herod’s hedonistic and grotesque banquet. Here we read about a beautiful banquet of normal people being served by a humble Savior and His humble followers.

- **The culture of Christ always contrasts with the destructive culture of the world.**

CREATOR & LORD (MARK 6:45–56) MORE EXHAUSTION

“Immediately [Jesus] made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him” while He dismissed the crowd. He commanded this so they could get a little time to rest.

- He may have also sent them away to keep them from getting caught up in many people’s nationalistic views regarding the Savior.

JESUS NEEDED SOME ALONE TIME TOO

Jesus got news of John’s death right before the feeding of the 5,000, and He needed some time to be alone.

- On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. This can be challenging to understand, but **Jesus did many things not because He had to but to set an example.**

“WELL INTO THE NIGHT...”

That night, the disciples were “straining at the oars” in the sea. Mark says Jesus “saw” this, and that the winds were against them.

- In the early morning (after midnight), Jesus came walking towards them on the sea and wanted to “pass by” (reveal that He was there to help).

MISTAKEN FOR A GHOST

There were Jewish superstitions about seeing ghosts on the sea at night who foretold coming disaster.

- By this point, the disciples’ superstition and doubt should have been erased, but **even in their faults, Jesus speaks encouragement and does so in love and compassion.**

THE PEACEMAKER

Once the disciples **recognized Jesus and invited Him into the situation**, the sea and the wind calmed and they were safe. This astounded them.

- There will be times of distress in life, but **when we invite Jesus into the “boat,” He stabilizes and helps us.**

WHY NO MENTION OF PETER?

Matthew records Peter walking on water with Jesus. Mark’s Gospel records Peter’s account to Mark. More than likely, Peter wanted the focus to be on Jesus’ actions and not his own.

- The Gospels do not contradict, but they were written to different groups of people in slightly different ways.

THE WORK CONTINUES (VS. 53–56)

Mark notes that when they got to shore, they were immediately recognized and besieged by people wanting to be healed. It also says everyone who touched His robe was healed.

- Unlike Nazareth, it seems like this area had **much faith in who Jesus is, and it was reflected in the impact He had on them.**

THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF BALANCE

- Jesus calls His disciples to **obedience, hard work, and true rest. Rest (Sabbath) is earned** and isn’t just mindless vegging out.
- Scripture teaches **moderation, hard work, wisdom, priorities**, and meaningful **rest**. Though the Bible doesn’t use “**balance**,” it is a great thing Jesus brings into our lives.

WE ARE TO ALSO SHOW COMPASSION

- Just as Jesus wants us to know the truth, have our needs met, and find rest, we are to want that for people around us.
- **Helping others can be exhausting and disappointing.** We must remember **we are also flawed and inadequate to truly help others apart from God’s provision.**

“STRAINING AT THE OARS”

- **Real Christianity is not easy.** It demands sacrifice, obedience, work, and rest. And even when we do our best, we still fail and get fatigued.
- **If we live in failure without repentance or fatigue without Sabbath, life will be difficult, confusing, and overwhelming.**
- **Jesus sees us** and our struggles. Though there may be times of distress, **if we will invite Him in, He will help us.**
- On the contrary, **whatever we refuse to invite Jesus into limits His activity in that area of our life.** Inviting Jesus in requires trust, obedience, and perseverance.