

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

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

FEEDING (MARK 6:30–44)

THE APOSTLES RETURN (VS. 30–31)

This picks up from verse 7. The apostles were told to preach repentance, drive out demons, and anoint and heal the sick.

- And they did it! They did so much that Jesus told them to get some rest. Here we see the first need in this passage identified: **to rest after labor**.
- Mark highlights how strongly the disciples intended to rest by repeating “by themselves to a remote place.”
- When Jesus saw the crowds, He responded with compassion, not selfishness.
- Here we see the second need of this passage: to be led and taught.

THE PROBLEM (VS. 35–37)

The disciples, already exhausted and now rescheduling their rest, failed to see a need more important than rest at that moment: **to serve**.

- God ordinarily uses ordinary means to provide. **You and I are often those very means!**
- Their comment might be sarcastic. 200 denarii is about \$38,000! That was a big crowd and a lot of money. Maybe they did not have it.
- Probably, they were looking to themselves and what God had given them, **rather than to God Himself**. It is possible they had the money.

THE SOLUTION (VS. 38–41)

Jesus provided the solution to the crowd's needs, but He still used means. He used the disciples to distribute the food.

- Here we see two needs met through supernatural means: **to serve and to be served**.
- Is there a communion parallel here?
- Jesus “blessed and broke” the bread, like at the Last Supper (Mark 14:22).
- The feeding of the 5,000, the Last Supper, and communion today all anticipate **the marriage feast of the Lamb** (Revelation 19:9).

ABOVE AND BEYOND (VS. 42–44)

God takes the little that we have to offer and uses it for results beyond our wildest imaginations.

- He does not just meet our bare minimum needs; He gives us every good thing!
- The emphasis here is not on the food. It is on **the One who provided it**.

WALKING (MARK 6:45–52)

THE SCENE CHANGES (VS. 45–47)

Finally, Jesus and the disciples got a chance to rest. The disciples went ahead, and Jesus remained to pray.

- Jesus did not forget about their needs or His own needs. Though we may need to work long and difficult hours, **we will always enjoy God's rest** when we really need it.

WALKING AND TALKING (VS. 48–50)

One difference between this miracle and calming the storm earlier is that **Jesus was not with the disciples this time**.

- The disciples did not recognize Jesus. Is this just confusion? Probably not. Mark includes it here because it illustrates his main points: Jesus' identity and seeing Him properly.
- Here we may see Old Testament allusions in “pass by them” and “It is I.”
- “Pass by” is common phrasing in the OT for a *theophany*, a visible manifestation of God (Exodus 33:22).
- “It is I” uses the same Greek as “I am”—the revealing of God's nature (Exodus 3:14; John 8:58).

THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND (VS. 51–52)

While the miracle here is important and affirms Jesus' divinity, Mark spends far more time on the disciples' reaction than the miracle itself.

- They were astounded **because** they did not understand about the loaves. Their need here was not to get somewhere; it was **to understand who Jesus is!**

HEALING (MARK 6:53–56)

ARRIVAL (V. 53)

Though the disciples were in the boat as well, the rest of this passage acts as if they were not there. Why the shift?

- The disciples are not the main characters! This passage, and all of Mark's Gospel, is about one man: Jesus Christ.
- When God does extraordinary things for us, **it is always about Him!**

GREAT CROWDS (VS. 54–55)

The people in this area felt an urgency that compelled them towards Jesus.

- During His time on Earth, Jesus was limited to one place at one time.
- Today, we have access to the Holy Spirit who is available everywhere, always. **But do we feel the same urgency?** Our time is short as well!

GREAT HEALING (V. 56)

While the simple healing touch is like previous accounts of healing (5:27), the focus here is different.

- Mark does not focus on the people being healed or their faith. He focuses on **the One who heals**.

GOD PROVIDES FOR ALL OUR NEEDS

- The emphasis of these passages is not on the faith of the people but on **the God who provides**.
- The emphasis of these passages is not on the needs being provided for but on **the God who provides**.
- The God who has made us and loves us **has already provided** all our needs.

GOD USES MEANS

- We serve an extraordinary God who typically works through **ordinary means**.
- We have the opportunity to be the vessels through whom God provides.
- We should not wait for manna to fall before we believe that God has provided for us.

GOD WITHHOLDS NO GOOD THING

- Psalm 84:11 says God “does not withhold the good from those who live with integrity.”
- Because God's provision is about Him, not us, He does not stop at our bare minimum needs. He gives us **every** good thing.

EVERY NEED? EVERY GOOD THING?

- Do we trust that God has provided and will provide for our financial needs?
- What about our relational needs?
- Do we understand that we have a need to serve? Do we over-prioritize rest? Do we act like we do not need rest?