

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 20TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

### SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD (MARK 6:30-34) GREAT SUCCESS

Mark is picking back up after the disciples were sent out in pairs (Mark 6:7-13).

- At this point, the multitudes have increased greatly because of the words and works of Jesus as well as the work of the disciples, as they went throughout Galilee “[driving] out demons, anoint[ing] many sick people with oil and heal[ing] them” (6:13).

### PEOPLE ARE THE MISSION

The disciples were so busy with their work that they did not even have time to eat.

- There is a **work that attracts** and a **work that distracts**. If people are the mission, then we do **works that will bring them in** (Matthew 5:16). However, we should not get **so busy with works that it distracts us from the mission**.

### JESUS COMMANDS REST

Jesus sent the disciples out to work, but He also knew the importance of rest, telling His disciples to “[go] to a remote place and rest for a while.”

- Rest, or Sabbath, is necessary for those who labor. Jesus invites **all who labor and are heavy-laden to come to Him and He will give them rest** (Matthew 11:28).

### “SAW A LARGE CROWD AND HAD COMPASSION”

We do not know if the crowds were rude or demanding, but it seems as though the disciples were growing tired of the multitudes (6:36). Yet **Jesus had compassion on them**.

- We may see others as work or a constant demand, but Jesus, with compassion, **sees needs, past hurts or hang-ups in need of healing**, and **individuals created in His likeness**.

### SEEING THE NEED AND MEETING THE NEED

Jesus had compassion on them because they were “**like sheep without a shepherd**.”

- Sheep are one of the most dependent animals. Without a shepherd, sheep are easy prey to predators. Without someone guiding them, sheep have a hard time finding food and water. **Jesus saw they needed a shepherd and, out of compassion, began shepherding them**.

### FEEDING THE MULTITUDE (MARK 6:35-44)

#### “SEND THEM AWAY...”

Both the disciples and Jesus saw the need of the multitude, but the the disciples were unable to view them the way Jesus did. So, their solution was to send them away.

- We must rely on God to help us **properly perceive a need** and then **properly provide for that need**. **God allows us to see a need because He means for us to meet that need**.

### COUNTING THE COST (LUKE 14:28-33)

Jesus told the disciples to give the crowd something to eat, so **they immediately started to calculate the cost**. 200 denarii worth of food would have been a year's wages, and the disciples thought it impossible to feed so many.

- Their calculations were **not in preparation to act but were barriers to believing what Jesus was able to do**.

### TAKING INVENTORY

“**How many loaves do you have?**” Jesus is essentially asking the disciples to **take inventory of the resources they have and assess how they can use what they already have wisely**.

- It is foolish to ask God for more if we are not using what he has already given us in a wise way that honors Him. **Do we ask God to bless things we have never invited Him into?**

### WE THINK SMALL WHEN HE IS BIG

What they had was not enough. It was only enough to feed two people. Though it was not much, Jesus started with what they had.

- With Jesus, we do not have to rely on human means because He is able to do a lot, even with a little that is entrusted to Him. **He is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think** (Ephesians 3:20).

### PREPARING THE HARVEST

Similar to Psalm 23:2, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, instructed the people to “**sit down in groups on the green grass**.”

- The word used for “groups” gives the image of rows of vegetables planted in a garden. We also see that **God is a God of order**, arranging everyone in groups to avoid chaos.

### GOD'S PROVISION

Jewish people normally looked downward when asking for a blessing as a sign of humility, but Jesus looked upward toward Heaven.

- Jesus' blessing was more than only thanking God. It was **an appeal to the Father to show His extraordinary power and desire to provide for His people**.

### THE FEEDING OF THE > 5,000

In excess of 5,000 were fed. Mark notes that 5,000 men were fed, and Matthew indicates that women and children were also there.

- The leftovers were not a waste. Having a **meal with multitudes was a sign of His love** and desire for a relationship with them, and the **12 full baskets of leftovers were to show the depth of love for them**.

### “EVERYONE ATE AND WAS SATISFIED”

There was enough food for everyone to eat. The food was provided, but it was up to the guest to eat. **If someone left hungry, it was because they refused what was offered to them**.

- When we are invited into fellowship with Jesus, it is up to us to receive Him. **If we leave lacking and unsatisfied, then the breakdown is with us, not Jesus**.

### LORD OVER NATURE (MARK 6:45-56)

#### DISMISSED THE CROWDS & DEPARTED TO PRAY

John records that after miraculously feeding the multitudes, they wanted to crown Him and make Him King. **So, He dismissed the crowds and sent the disciples by boat to Bethsaida**.

- Jesus departed to the mountain to pray after meeting the spiritual and physical needs of so many. **It was a hard day that drove Jesus to prayer, not away from it**.

#### “HE SAW THEM STRAINING AT THE OARS...”

The disciples were unaware that **Jesus saw them in their difficulty and came to help them**.

- Jesus walked on water toward them, “**want[ing] to pass by them**.” To pass by does not mean that Jesus was going to walk past them and ignore them. Like God when He “passed by” Moses, **Jesus wanted to reveal His presence, giving them assurance**.

#### WHY WAS AN IMPORTANT SCENE LEFT OUT?

Matthew records that **it was on this occasion that Peter got out of boat and walked on water to Jesus**.

- It is believed that Peter was the source of Mark's Gospel accounts, so why was this excluded? Was it because Peter didn't want to be exalted for walking on water? Or humbled for sinking? Most likely, it was omitted because **Mark wanted to focus on what Jesus did, not Peter**.

#### “THEY WERE COMPLETELY ASTOUNDED...”

The disciples missed the importance of the feeding of multitudes, causing them to fear and doubt, yet again, that Jesus sent them onto the water and would see them through what He sent them to do.

- They should have understood that **Jesus is Lord of creation**. He is Lord of the Sabbath, purification, the bread and fish they ate, and the sea they sailed upon.

### WE NEED A SHEPHERD

- Like sheep, we have all gone astray (Isaiah 53:6) and need a shepherd to lead us back.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). This “I Am” proclamation immediately follows Jesus declaring He is “the gate.” This means Jesus is the one who opened the gate, through the cross, for salvation, and **He is the one who will lead, provide for, and protect us**.

### SUBMITTING TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD

- Have we positioned ourselves under the watchful eye of the Shepherd?
- Are we **listening and responding through obedience** to the commands of the Shepherd (John 10:27-28)?
- The Good Shepherd notices our straining and **reveals Himself to us** to give us the assurance that **He sees and cares**.