

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 20TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

REST AND FOOD (MARK 6:30-44) GATHERED AROUND JESUS

After learning about John the Baptist's final days, Mark takes us back to the disciples' commissioning and their return.

- They had been faithful and were now seeking approval and affirmation of their work.
- **As we follow Christ and go where He sends us, it is good to remember how He empowers and protects us. Do we thank Him for the opportunities?**

"REST FOR A WHILE"

Jesus acknowledged the hard work of His disciples, inviting them to rest in a secluded place after their eventful journey.

- Jesus often sought times of rest and prayer. The example He set was what He wanted for His disciples.
- **We all need time to review, rest, fellowship with friends, and receive renewal from the Father.**

"BUT MANY SAW THEM"

The goal was to get to a remote place and recover from the intense ministry of the days before. The crowd saw them and ran to the shore, gathering people as they went. Thousands were there when Jesus and His disciples went ashore.

- The stories of His teaching and healing had spread throughout the region. There was no hiding from those in need.

"THEY WERE LIKE SHEEP"

The crowd would need to be sent away if the disciples were to get their much deserved rest. Jesus saw the crowd, had compassion on them, and began to teach.

- Jesus did not ignore the needs of the disciples. He was about to teach them even more about ministry.
- **When we see problems, God is about to give us an opportunity.**

"SEND THEM AWAY"

It became late and the disciples began to worry about the hungry crowd. Since they were in a remote area, their suggestion to Jesus was to send them away into local villages.

- This is a reasonable request, given there were 5,000 men plus women and children.
- **Sometimes, the obvious thing is not God's plan. Are we ready to do something new?**

"YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT."

When Jesus said "feed 'em," they quickly calculated that it would take eight months' wages to provide a little bread for each one.

- They had just returned from casting out demons and healing the sick. Now, they could only do the math, and it was not enough.
- **When God gives us an opportunity to trust Him and glorify His name, do we measure our resources or do we determine God's will and trust Him to meet the need?**

"HOW MANY LOAVES DO YOU HAVE?"

They knew they did not have enough money, so the question about buying bread was rhetorical. Now, Jesus asked a ridiculous question. After searching the crowd, they found five loaves and two salted fish.

- It seemed they had barely enough to feed themselves. But God never lacks resources; He can always afford what He chooses to provide.
- **After all that we have seen God do, why do we still doubt and worry about what is next?**

"HE BLESSED AND BROKE THE LOAVES"

The disciples could see how much food was available—basically none. But when Jesus told them to get the crowd ready to eat, they did.

- As Jesus prayed, He distributed the bread and fish to His disciples until everyone was fed.
- **The disciples knew they did not have the resources or power to feed these people. They did not know how Jesus would do it. But they obeyed His instructions and saw Him do something no one else could.**

"EVERYONE ATE"

It is worth noting that this miracle was done by the hands of Jesus, not the disciples.

- But everyone who received a meal that night received it from a disciple.
- **Whatever we give God, He can bless and multiply. We are not manufacturers; we are only distributors.**
- **Although everyone ate, not all understood. Jesus calls us to share His gospel with everyone. All will benefit; some will receive it.**

THE SEA (MARK 6:45-52)

"IMMEDIATELY HE MADE [THEM]..."

The people had experienced Jesus' power and wanted Him to be their king. This was not what Jesus came to do, so He sent His disciples across the sea while He dismissed the crowd and found a quiet place to pray.

- He sent them away to protect them, but also to teach them a lesson on faith that would prepare them for the work they would do after He was gone.
- **Being on a "spiritual high" can be dangerous. It is good but also a good place to step off a cliff.**

"IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA"

They reached the middle of the sea and struggled against the fierce wind.

- The disciples were exactly where Jesus had sent them. It was the middle of God's will and still there were threatening circumstances.
- **If we are earnestly and faithfully seeking to follow Christ, we should not be surprised when trials come. God allows these so that our faith may be refined and bring glory to Christ.**

"HE SAW THEM STRAINING"

Even from a distance, in His remote place, Jesus was watching His disciples.

- **God knows that blessings must be balanced with burdens and battles. Otherwise, we may become pampered children instead of maturing sons and daughters.**
- At the right time, He came toward them, walking on the sea. Did they rejoice at first sight?

"THEY ALL SAW HIM AND WERE TERRIFIED"

As Jesus walked on the raging sea, He wanted to pass by them. The very thing that was giving them trouble was under His feet. They could have seen His power and calmness in the storm.

- They did not recognize Him because they were not looking for Him. So they thought He must be a ghost because they could all see Him.
- **Are we looking for Jesus in the storms? Are we allowing circumstances to control what we see? Are we at least listening?**

"HAVE COURAGE! IT IS I. DON'T BE AFRAID."

The moment the disciples saw Him, they cried out in fear. Jesus immediately spoke to calm them and give them courage.

- Other scripture reveals that Peter walked to Jesus (almost). Mark excluded this part, possibly because Peter was the one sharing with Mark.
- **Many judge Peter because he did not quite make it to Jesus before he sank. How many of us would have even gotten out of the boat?**

"HE GOT INTO THE BOAT"

Even as they recognized His voice, the wind continued to blow and the sea raged.

- When He got in the boat, the wind ceased.
- They saw Him. They heard Him. Now, they had Him with them.
- **He gave them His word, then He gave them His presence, and then their circumstances changed. Do we see the pattern? Is our limited understanding a problem?**

"THEY HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD"

The disciples were shocked by what just happened because they had not understood about the loaves.

- They lacked spiritual insight and receptive hearts. The miracle of the loaves and fishes had made no lasting impression. They did not recognize Jesus as the One who provides and protects.
- **What lessons have we learned in our time with Christ? How much does He need to do before we start to really trust Him?**

REPUTATION (MARK 6:53-56)

PEOPLE RECOGNIZED HIM

When they landed on shore, people immediately recognized Jesus as the miracle worker.

- Because this area was known for its mineral springs, it was somewhat of a resort for invalids. The sick were brought to open places in hopes of being healed.
- **Even now, in the lost culture of America, people are looking for a way to be healed. They may not know who can help them. How will we get them to Christ?**

ALL WHO TOUCHED HIM WERE HEALED

It is interesting that a few chapters ago, a sick woman touched Jesus' robe and the disciples thought it was ridiculous for Jesus to ask who touched Him. Now, all it took was a touch.

- Jesus did not have a magical robe. It was the people's faith in Jesus that moved Him.
- **Healing does not happen because of touch. Healing is a gracious action of Jesus as He honors our means of expressing faith in Him. How will we express our faith today?**

CLOSE

- We want to be close to Jesus.
- **We spend more time trying to make others believe we are close to Jesus than we spend with Jesus.**
- **We do not have to touch His robe to be with Him. We need to read His Word, share His Word, and talk to Him (pray).**

TRUST

- We need to trust Jesus.
- **If we know Him, shouldn't we trust Him?**
- **As we grow in our relationship with Christ, we will KNOW Him more. The more we KNOW Him, the more we will TRUST Him. We will begin to see Him in the middle of our storms and start to KNOW that He always sees us in every circumstance.**

VICTORY

- Sometimes, winning seems impossible.
- **The problem is we think winning means everything is going our way and we are getting all that we want. We want to cheer and be celebrated because we are the best!**
- **We CAN celebrate because Jesus is still calling people to Himself, even in the raging storm. How will we face the next storm? What about the one we are in right now? Who will we trust?**