

Daily Bible Study

“A Crowd In Need & The God Who Cares”

Mark 6:30-44

July 4 - 10, 2010

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – As we return to our study of the Gospel of Mark we take for our text, **Mark 6:30-44** as we look at a lesson “*A Crowd In Need & The God Who Cares*”. This text of Scripture contains several things that help us see both our need as people and the provision of our Savior who is *The God Who Cares*”. By way of a very short summary which we will expound: In the opening of our text we read that the disciples are in need of rest from their mission that Christ had sent them on and most likely the murder of John the Baptist was also weighing heavily upon them. Jesus as always sets the perfect example and displays to these men the need for communion with The Father and time alone for not merely relaxation but real and genuine refreshment of soul and body. Jesus and the disciples *depart* by boat to be *by themselves* but as many times is the case the multitudes see them and depart and hurry themselves and meet Jesus and His men at their destination. Jesus sees the crowd, He sees their need as *sheep not having a shepherd* and He begins to minister to them both spiritually and eventually physically as well. The disciples and us as believers in Christ can and should learn so much from this text in the matters of trusting, obeying, and resting in our gracious loving God. As we will see the next time Lord willing as we progress in the text (**verses 45-52**), the disciples although men of God and believers in Jesus, are still slow to learn that they can fully trust and obey in this, only all powerful loving God man Jesus Christ; the problem was their *hard hearts* (**6:52**). **Mark 6:30-44** “*Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves. But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him. And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, “This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat.” But He answered and said to them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to Him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?” But He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they found out they said, “Five, and two fish.” Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all. So they all ate and*

were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.”

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Father God, Teach me from Your Word this week. Teach me to know, love, trust, and obey you more and more. Thank You Jesus for Your life.

TUESDAY – **Mark 6:30-32** *“Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.”* The twelve gather around Jesus now and report back to their commander and chief if you will of their tour of duty. Specifically they *told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught*. Do you report back to God with your everyday activities, asking Him to evaluate them in regards of their giving Him glory? The chosen, appointed and sent men (**Mark 3:13-14**), the *apostles* as Mark refers to them are here with their loving leader. They are His ambassadors and their now relaying the details of their mission. We must remember that we are also ambassadors of The Almighty (**1 Corinthians 5:20**), sent out to be *ministers of reconciliation* through the proclaiming of the good news, the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. They give no doubt an exciting report to Christ as they told Him *all things*. It was these very exciting God empowered *things* that King Herod had heard of and had disturbed him, things which under God’s Sovereign hand of providence, had started the King and Herodias to hear the convicting word of God and resulted in the decapitating of John The Baptist (**Mark 6:14-29**). The disciples unload on Jesus and Christ, who is the High Priest who can sympathize and understand our weaknesses (**Hebrews 4:15**) sees and understands that these men need what He modeled before them so often, time alone with God the Father to both rest and be refreshed. Jesus extends to these men the invitation to *come aside...and rest awhile*. The need for physical rest is apparent even in the life of Christ who if you will remember was so tired He fell asleep in the stern of the boat amidst a fierce storm back in **Mark 4:38**. Mark also shows us by way of Jesus’ example the importance of time with The Father for necessary spiritual strength and wisdom to live or may I dare say survive in this life in a God exalting and pleasing manner (**Mark 1:35, 6:45-46**). So from the text we see that the disciples join with Christ and *they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves*.

*The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Read and meditate on **Psalms 103:11-18**. Father, thanks for loving me even though I am but dust. You see my sin and frailty and still care.*

WEDNESDAY – **Mark 6:33-34** *“But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him. And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. Jesus is leading these men to a place of rest and seclusion and the text informs us that they are heading off to get this much needed refreshment. **Luke 9:10** tells us they were going to a deserted place belonging to the city of Bethsaida. **John 6:1** also informs us concerning location as John tells us that Jesus and His men went over the Sea of Galilee. They are headed across the Lake to*

get some seclusion. In our text along with the record in **Matthew 14:13** we learn that while Jesus and His men were sailing the people on the ground ran there on foot or followed Him on foot. We also learn that they are coming from all the cities. The multitudes see Jesus leaving and out of the lot, the physically fit, or at least the fastest of the group start running on land. If we look at the map the disciples and Jesus have about a 4-mile sail while the people on land have a about an 8-mile trek on the land around the tip of the Sea. This group is apparently so pumped up and because of the signs they were seeing (**John 6:2**), with adrenaline rushing, they arrived before them. God knows their hearts but we can read from all the texts concerning this episode, especially **John 6**, that sadly many in this crowd were what we would call mere thrill seekers. They wanted miracles, they wanted to see power on display, and they needed more and more. The massive throng eventually makes the journey as well and as they get there we are told And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things. Jesus beautifully models the importance of teaching and preaching the truth of the Gospel over and above personal comfort when He goes out and teaches them. His heart as the True Shepherd is here on display and **Luke 9:11** records Jesus received them and spoke to them about the Kingdom of God. He looks and sees the people as helpless and hopeless as sheep not having a shepherd. Sheep in this circumstance will die and Christ is splagchnizomai, “to be moved as to one's bowels, hence to be moved with compassion, (for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love and pity)”. Scripture often uses this sheep without shepherd imagery (**Numbers 27:17**, **Ezekiel 34:5**) and the protection, provision and loving care of the Great Shepherd is seen here in our text. Read also of this wonderful picture of God as The Great Shepherd in **Ezekiel 34:11-16**.

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Father, You're the Greatest Shepherd. Thank You for seeking and finding me when I was lost and astray. Help me eat, drink, & feed from Your provision.

THURSDAY – Mark 6:35-38 “When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, “This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat.” But He answered and said to them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to Him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?” But He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they found out they said, “Five, and two fish.” Jesus demonstrated the importance of food for the soul as He taught the people the Kingdom message of the Gospel. He also healed people (**Matthew 14:14**) and now He will even address the people's simple physical concern of hunger. All this activity must have taken some amount of time as we find *the day was now far spent*, it is getting late in the day. The disciples, in particular Phillip, see the crowd and begin to contemplate that they have a large problem on hand. They tell Jesus to *send them away* but Jesus responds by placing responsibility upon their shoulders and tells them, *You give them something to eat*. It is our advantage as we already know the outcome of this story but what is incredible to see is that Jesus already knew what He was going to do and He was testing His men (**John 6:5-6**). In the face of all they had just seen Jesus do these men were at a loss and struggling immensely with what they would do to fix this problem. Jesus is teaching His men among other things, leadership responsibility, the need to

seek God and ask for help in life's up and down circumstances, and also the vital truth that He, The Bread of Life is the full and final source of true, lasting and satisfying provision. Jesus is stripping away human strength and ability as He asks the disciples to provide for the people's need. They can't. They are in a *deserted place* and the *hour is late*. They wanted to shake off the problem by just *sending them away* and meanwhile Jesus is setting the stage for a powerful lesson. It is interesting to note that The Bread of Life will be offered quietly in a *deserted*, lonely place; a place far from the noise of the world. The early church father, John Chrysostom comments, "Even though the place is desolate, yet the one who feeds the world is present. And even though the hour is late, yet the one who is not subject to the hour is conversing with you". Jesus brings these men to the end of themselves and their power as He asks them how much food they have on hand. Matthew captures the despair they must have felt when he records them saying, *we have ONLY five loaves...* Read and meditate on **Proverbs 3:5-6, Philippians 4:6-20**.

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Ask God to help you truly trust Him alone as the source for all necessary provision; both for this life and the life to come. Ask Him to make you more mindful and deliberate in seeking and asking Him to show Himself strong for His glory.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – **Mark 6:39-44** "*Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all. So they all ate and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.*" After helping the disciples realize they were a needy group without their Savior, Jesus now begins to give them commands. He is the source of power but He uses men to accomplish His Divine Sovereign will (**1 Corinthians 3:9, 2 Corinthians 4:7**). He has the people sit down and they are arranged in an orderly manner which would provide ease in delivering the food to them all. Jesus then takes the 5-loaves and 2-fish and *looked up to heaven, blessed...* Jesus draws all the people's attention to the Father as He looks to heaven, the place and person from which all the mercies and blessings of life and every *good and perfect gift* comes down from (**James 1:17**). He also brings into focus that 5-loaves and 2-fish are about to provide food for thousands through the power of Jehovah. He gives an *eulogeo*, "to praise, to invoke blessings, to consecrate and ask God's blessing on a thing". It was customary for the Jews to thank God before starting a meal and this is where we have learned to offer thanks, praise, and God's blessing on what we are about to eat; food that He has provided. After this Jesus *broke the loaves* and *divided the fish*. We read, *So they all ate and were filled*. All the four Evangelists mention this fact: and **John 6:11** adds, "*...as much as they wanted...*" to drive home the point that in the midst of this vast multitude, Jesus with apparent scant, meager provisions feeds a meal that was satisfying and plentiful. The disciples took place in this ministry of service as they distributed the food and collected leftovers, *twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish* a touch that brought out the massive extent of this incredible miracle.

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Jesus, Bread of Life, thank You for feeding my soul the life giving salvation of You and Your Gospel. Thank You also for providing my daily bread.