

The Gospel of Mark

Group Guide: Week 12, Mark 6:30-53



INTRODUCTION

This passage begins with the 12 apostles reporting back on the mission trip that Jesus had sent them on in Mark 6:7-13. They soon learn that because of the needs and demands of the crowds they are not able to find rest and solitude. In addition, the study of this passage reveals, in a number of different ways, that the apostles do not have the same compassion and desire for the people that Jesus demonstrates. May we prayerfully have the heart of Christ as we follow Him and compassionately serve others.

PRAYER

READ

Have someone read aloud Mark 6:30-53.

SUMMARIZE

Ask two people to summarize the passage who haven't summarized recently.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In verses 30-33, Jesus and the apostles attempt to retreat for rest. However, a large crowd notices them. Jesus steps into the interruption by teaching them instead of sending them away. When you are interrupted, especially when seeking rest, what is your initial reaction? Do you step into the interruption with joy or with frustration?

2. In verse 34, Mark writes that Jesus feels compassion for the crowd because they were like "sheep without a shepherd." As a Christian, where have you seen "sheep without a shepherd"? What emotion do you feel when you encounter them? (compassion, anger, frustration, fear) Why do you feel that way?

N.T. FURTHER READING

Matthew 14:13-34; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-21

O.T. FURTHER READING

Numbers 27:17; Ezekiel 34:5

FURTHER STUDY

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

NOTES

3. Reread verses 36-38. What concerns, practical or otherwise, hinder you from experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit? How have your concerns stopped you from stepping into evangelism and service?

4. Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 shows that He gave them more than they needed (verses 39-44). They go from a hopeless situation to an overflow of 12 baskets. Are there times in your life where you have tried to limit God but He has shown you that He can provide in abundance? What were those times like?

5. In verses 45-51, the disciples were "utterly astounded" by Jesus' walking on the water. However, the following verse shows us that the disciples failed to understand Jesus' previous miracle, the feeding of the crowd, as miraculous. Therefore, "their hearts were hardened" as if they'd forgotten Jesus' past miracles and wonders. In what ways have you forgotten Jesus' work in your life? How does this "forgetfulness" impact your current walk with the Lord?

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Mark 6:34

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Personal: What are some practical ways you can invite interruption this week? Consider one person you might share the gospel with this week and pray for an opportunity.

Church: Jesus meets both the physical and the spiritual needs of the crowd. What is one specific way you might serve the physical or spiritual needs of our church body this week?

World: Confess to the Lord how you have limited Him and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance on how you can faithfully see "sheep without a shepherd" and serve Him in this needy world.

PRAY TOGETHER