

**“The Dangers of Success”**  
“A Journey with Jesus” — Part 11  
*Mark 6:30-56*

**The Rest of the Story**

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Mark 6:30

***“The disciples accomplished through the Lord’s authority what no mere human could, apart from God.”***

**1. No Rest for the Ministers.**

Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. Mark 6:31-33

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 Timothy 2:2

***If you don’t come apart and rest,  
you will come apart!***  
Vance Havner—Pastor

**2. The Compassion of a Shepherd.**

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. Mark 6:34

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose...Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus... Philippians 2:1-5

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me that your soul may live...” Isaiah 55:1-3

### 3. Fatigue Gets the Best of The Disciples.

By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?" "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish." Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. Mark 6:35-44

#### **Responses of the Disciples:**

- "Send the people away."
- They are foolish not to have thought about food.
- "That would take eight months of a man's wages!"
- What are we to do with all of the leftovers?

#### **Jesus' Response:**

- Jesus gives thanks for a pittance of food that will never be enough to go around.
- "They all ate and were satisfied..."

### 4. Same Lesson—Second Time Around.

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. Mark 6:45-52

- The disciples have been in this predicament before. The biggest difference is, last time, Jesus was in their boat.
- This time the test happens after a successful ministry campaign and an incredible miracle.
- What had the disciples missed about the loaves? Could it have been that they took it for granted?

## 5. Jesus the Servant-Healer.

When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

Mark 6:53-56

- Jesus' healing was not selective.
- The availability of Jesus and the determination of their touch are complimentary in the healing process.

***Has the church lost its reputation as a servant?***

**Application:** The church is to be a collection of servants. Service is one of the foundation stones of our faith and Christ's commission. We are called to serve in the church and in the world. How are you fulfilling the two-fold focus of this Mission?