

NEXT DOOR

How Do I Bless My Neighbor?

Mark 6:30-44

Rest

Mark 6:30-32 (NLT2) 30 *The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. 31 Then Jesus said, “Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.” He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat. 32 So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone.*

- In Mark 6 Jesus had sent His *apostles* (literally means one who’s been sent) to preach repentance and take authority over unclean spirits
- The apostles returned from their mission trip and gathered together with Jesus to report everything they had done and taught
- The apostles *reported back* to Jesus because Jesus *sent* them out to minister
- As believers, we are to be accountable to God and our local church leaders for the ministry we do
- After the apostles gave their report, Jesus tells them, “Let’s find a quiet place where we all can rest for awhile”
- The apostles had a successful time of ministry and now they needed a time of *rest*
- We all need to come apart daily to have some quiet quality time with the Lord
- The text says, Jesus and the apostles had been so busy doing ministry that they didn’t even have time eat
- We can only be most effective for God’s work when we take time for rest

Recognize the Needs of Your Neighbor

33 *But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. 34 Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.*

- As Jesus and the apostles are boarding the boat to leave, many people spotted them and followed them along the shore
- The apostles were probably thinking, “We can’t even rest without this multitude of people following us!”
- Jesus saw the multitude of people and was *moved with compassion*
- Jesus *recognized* that their following Him and the apostles was really an expression of their great needs
- Jesus recognized the true needs of the people
- Jesus looked at the people and they looked like sheep without a shepherd
- Without a shepherd, sheep:
 - *Can get lost easily* - Sheep are prone to wander and can’t find their way back to the flock
 - *Will go hungry and thirsty* - Sheep lack the ability to find grazing land and water

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- *Can't find shelter or safety* - They are vulnerable to the dangers of the elements and predators
- Jesus recognized they were hungry and began to feed (teach) them the Word of God
- Jesus fed them the Word of God 1st because it was their *most pressing* need
- When we encounter lost people, we have an opportunity *and* responsibility to share the Word of God with them

Send Them Away or Feed Them?

35 *Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. 36 Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat." 37 But Jesus said, "You feed them." "With what?" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!"*

- It's late in the day, the multitudes are following them, and the apostles still haven't gotten any rest
- Jesus and His disciples have a very "different view" of the *same* need
- To the disciples, the hunger of the multitude was a personal responsibility or a "personal problem"
- Instead of sending the crowd of people away, Jesus tells the disciples, "*You feed them*"
- To Jesus, the needs of the multitude was a *corporate responsibility*
- Jesus saw a different solution and wanted the disciples to see it too
- What is the believer's responsibility to the world?
- The disciples respond to Jesus by saying do "you know how much it will cost to feed all these people!"
- Jesus says to us, you feed them, you figure out a way to help them
- Will you feed them or send them away?

Use Your Available Resources

38 *"How much bread do you have?" he asked. "Go and find out." They came back and reported, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish."*

- After the disciple's question Jesus about where will they get "the money" to feed all these people, Jesus asks the disciples a question, "How much bread do you have?"
- The real question is what available resources (in this case bread) do you have?
- God's provision always begins with what we *already* have
- What resources do you have that you can use to meet the needs of your neighbor?
- How can you leverage what you already have to bless your neighbors?
- What resources are we willing to give to Jesus and trust Him to multiply?

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- Jesus asked how much bread did they have; the disciples said they have five loaves and two fish
- Five loaves and two fish would feed one, maybe two people
- Even though the bread that the disciples found was clearly “not enough”, but it was *enough* for Jesus to work with

Trust in a God's Provision

39 Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred. 41 Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. 42 They all ate as much as they wanted, 43 and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. 44 A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed from those loaves!

- Jesus tells the disciples to have the people sit down in groups of 50 and 100 on the green grass
- Jesus, the *Good Sheperd* makes the people lie down in green pastures (Psalm 23:2)
- Jesus took the loaves and fish into His hands
- Jesus looked toward heaven and blessed and broke the loaves
- The primary objective in saying *blessing before a meal* is to thank and honor God for blessing us with the food to eat
- After Jesus prayed, He started breaking the loaves and the fish into pieces and giving to the disciples to give to distribute to the people
- The Bible says all 5,000 plus women and children ate and were full
- No one left hungry
- When the disciples put the five loaves and two fish in Jesus hands, a miracle happened
- Jesus is calling us to step out in faith knowing that He can use us *and* whatever we have in our hands to bless our neighbors
- Jesus is calling us to:
 - *Have Compassion for Others*
 - *Share Our Faith*
 - *Be Good Stewards*
 - *Be Thankful of All God Gives You*
 - *Have Faith in God's Provision*
 - *Get Involved*