

You Give Them Something **Mark 6:30-44**

This is how Jesus sees people. It is the way He is. This is the Gospel.

Jesus sees faces and lives and situations and struggles and hurts. You know that every kind of person had to be in that crowd of thousands: Proud people, broken people, living disasters, predators, addicts, workaholics, wife-beaters, adulterers, gay people, tax-evaders, cheaters, self-righteous church people, embezzlers, blackmailers, hypocrites, whores, liars, thieves – you name it – you – me.

Unlike us, Jesus knows all – He sees things – entire lives – consuming struggles – heartaches – He hears devastating conversations – He knows our hopes – dreams – family failures – relational strains – deep, dark secrets – Everything!

And what does He do? He has compassion. Rather than judge, He teaches – rather than condemn He provides. He sees past their ‘sins’ and straight to their condition – and it breaks His heart. Did you know this about Jesus?

What about the disciples? Well, they are a lot like we are. They are hungry and frankly they aren’t very concerned with the crowd. And they are blown away that Jesus tells **them** to feed the crowd.

Have you heard the invitation of Jesus? Are you tired and hungry, longing for someone to fill your hungry soul? Are you weary of being labeled and seen only on the outside? Do you long for

someone who can get past the façade – someone who can find and touch who you really are?

Missing the Gospel here will only lead to despair. The Gospel uncovers our natural inabilities and our resident unbelief. Deep within we know we can't overcome our weaknesses, and truth be known, we don't believe there is any hope that anyone can help.

What do we learn from the Disciples?

- **They Make a Simple Admission** – ‘I can't’ – Even their faithless skepticism was a good start for the disciples. The task Christ gave them was one they could not accomplish without Him. The moment – He is God and you are not. God will work with, ‘I can't,’ but He doesn't tolerate, ‘I won't.’
- **They Find a Simple Resolve** – They begin with what Christ gave them – You have much to face in your life and the Church has much to do in the world – and Christ puts the responsibility on us – but He never asks us to produce what we don't have.

Two Challenges and One Promise

Two Challenges:

- **To the Church**

It isn't acceptable for the Church to be idle or indifferent in a broken world. It isn't good enough for the Church to spout what is true but not live it. It isn't good enough for the Church to diagnose the world's ills and then send people home to find something to eat. It isn't good enough. As I read this I sensed urgency in Jesus – He wants these people taken care of. He isn't about to settle for

some lame excuse. He isn't going to let the disciples get away with thinking themselves to be helpful if they aren't willing to lift a finger out of care for the condition of their world.

- **To You**

It isn't good enough for you to say, 'I am what I am,' or 'I blew it and it's too late,' or 'No one could ever love me.' It may be how you feel – and this is the sentiment of an equally broken world – but this isn't the heart of Christ – this isn't the Gospel we announce.

Sometimes it is so easy to become paralyzed in fear and discouragement. We know our weaknesses and despair over our inability to overcome. But friend, know that Jesus is aware of your struggle – and He is not indifferent to your need. He doesn't mock your weakness or laugh at your maladies.

The Promise

Christ will always be enough to fill you

The driving force in this story is the heart of Jesus – not the disciples' limitations, not the peoples' needs and not the late time in the day. Jesus' compassion is what makes this event something that gives us hope. The Gospel promises that He hears your cries, He knows your troubles, and He is not put off by your weakness.