

## A Study of Mark – Lesson 17

### Mark 6:30-44 Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

**6** <sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered around Jesus /and reported to him / all they had done / and taught. <sup>31</sup>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.”

<sup>32</sup>So they went away / by themselves / in a boat to a solitary place. / <sup>33</sup>But many / who saw them leaving / recognized them / and ran on foot / from all the towns / and got there ahead of them. / <sup>34</sup>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. /

<sup>35</sup>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. / <sup>36</sup>Send the people away / so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages / and buy themselves something to eat.”

<sup>37</sup>But he answered, / “You give them something to eat.” /

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They said to him, / “That would take more than half a year’s wages! / Are we to go / and spend that much on bread / and give it to them to eat?”

<sup>38</sup>”How many loaves do you have?” / he asked. / “Go and see.” / When they found out, / they said, / “Five—and two fish.”/

<sup>39</sup>Then Jesus directed them / to have all the people sit down / in groups / on the green grass. / <sup>40</sup>So they sat down / in groups of hundreds and fifties. / <sup>41</sup>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 distribute to the people. / He also divided the two fish / among them all. / <sup>42</sup>They all ate and were satisfied, / <sup>43</sup>and the disciples picked up / twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. / <sup>44</sup>The number of the men / who had eaten / was five thousand.

## ***Vocabulary***

1. **Astonishment:** noun. Great amazement. Surprise.
2. **Compassion:** noun. Sympathy for the suffering of others, often including a desire to help. Concern. Kindness.
3. Loaf, loaves of bread. Barley bread.
4. Idiom: *like sheep without a shepherd*. This simile has become famous for people who have no leader or goal.



## Questions

1. Remember the passages in Mark 6:12-13? What do you think they would have told Jesus about their work? Would it have surprised the disciples that they could heal as Jesus did?
2. Why would they need to go rest?
3. What is the rhythm of Christian Life? *Going from the presence of God into the presence of men, working, and going back to the presence of God, and working, etc.*
4. What are the two dangers in the Christian life? Why?
  - a. Working all the time.
  - b. Praying all the time.
5. The metaphor of Jesus is as the Great Shepherd. Do you think people are like sheep? What are sheep like?
6. At this place on Lake Galilee, it was 4 miles across by boat and 10 miles by foot. Could the walking people get across before Jesus and the 12?
7. Each Jewish man carried a food basket or begging bowl. Why would they carry their own food?
8. What did the people eat? Where did the food come from?
9. Why were there 12 baskets of food left over?

## Notes

1. There is a normal rhythm to life. Either too much work or too much rest is unhealthy. Total withdrawal from life or too much of people is unhealthy.
2. A sheep is a dumb animal. Without a shepherd it cannot find the right path to travel; it cannot find food and shelter; and it cannot defend itself.
3. This miracle made the greatest of impressions on the disciples. It is found in all four of the gospels. Since Mark's gospel is really the story of Peter, it reads like an eyewitness account.

4. The only time the grass would be green is in the spring. Therefore it is surmised that this is springtime.



5. Jewish men carried their own food to make sure it fit the dietary requirements of their religion. Also, there was no MacDonalld's on available street corners. The Romans made fun of the Jews for carrying their own food, but Jews felt it had to be kosher.