

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS – p. 19

“A Matter of Fish and Faith”

Mark 6:30-52

One Big Miracle

Two things that make this one particularly big –

- One – The number of people involved in the miracle – (nothing comes close)
 - v. 44 – *“And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.”*
 - In Luke’s account of this event, he also says there were “five thousand men” (Luke 9:14)
 - But Matthew gives us another detail –
 - Matt. 14:21 – *“And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.”*
 - Five thousand men probably means five thousand women and the kids were not left at home!
 - 15,000 – 20,000!
- Two – It is one of two miracles recorded in all four gospels – The other is the resurrection of Jesus!

The Context

We can divide Mark into three sections –

- The first (1:2-6:6) is in the Galilee
- The second (6:7-10:52) is the movement from Galilee to Jerusalem
- The third (11:1-16:20) is in Jerusalem

In the second section, the disciples move to the forefront –

- The second section will be about how Jesus is growing and equipping the faith of the Twelve!

Read Mark 6:30-44

Pray

Jesus – All You Need

Through this story, Jesus wants you to see –

1 – He is the source of what your faith needs –

- v. 30 – *“The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.”*
 - Apostle means *one who is sent* –
 - This takes us back to 6:7 – *“And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two...”*
 - And He gives them power and authority to cast out demons and heal the sick.
- What is the truth about the Twelve?
 - The source of everything they did and said was Jesus!
 - He gave them the ability and authority to teach, to cast out demons, and to heal the sick.
 - And this is what Jesus will remind them of as He puts them in a situation to show them their total inadequacy!
- v. 31 – *“And he said to them, ‘Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.”*
- v. 32 – *“And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.”*
- v. 33 – *“Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.”*
- v. 34 – *“When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.”*

- To illustrate that Jesus is the source of what we need, Jesus gives this wonderful illustration of sheep who are in need of a shepherd.
- vs. 35-36 – *“And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a desolate place, and the hour is late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.’”*
- v. 37 – *“But he answered them, ‘You give them something to eat.’”*
 - This is how He is setting them up to see something that is essential to faith –
 - Jesus is the source of everything we need!

2 – He will supply what your faith needs –

- v. 38 – *“And he said to them, ‘How many loaves do you have? Go and see.’ And when they had found out, they said, ‘Five, and two fish.’”*
- Notice what Jesus teaches them and us -
 - Clearly Jesus is the supplier of the food. He creates it. The disciples are helpless to create food.
 - But Jesus still gives them responsibilities.
 - v. 41 – *“...and gave them to the disciples to set before the people.”*
 - Only Jesus can give life...only Jesus can save...only Jesus can create converts.
 - But the disciples (and us) have to faithfully obey what Jesus tells us to do.
 - We must pray...give...witness...preach...teach...baptize...etc.
 - God has ordained the end (people being saved) and the means (our obedience).
 - This helps me to rest in that I don’t take responsibility for things I can’t do.
 - But I can and should be responsible for what I can do.
- Two lessons the disciples received from this...
 - One – All the grace they would need to obey, to serve and to please Christ would be provided by Christ.
 - 1 Cor. 15:10 – *“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”*
 - Grace is the capacity to do anything spiritually profitable (wisdom, courage, discernment, love, endurance).
 - Everything you need to obey...serve...and please Christ is provided.
 - Two – All the truth people need would be supplied, and then some.
 - Food is often a metaphor for truth, i.e. Jesus is the “bread of life.”
 - v. 43 – *“And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.”*
 - You never exhaust the resource of God’s Word.
 - If you come to me with a spiritual problem (bitterness) you will find everything you need in God’s Word to sufficiently deal with your problem.

3 – He will Satisfy your faith –

- v. 42 – *“And they all ate and were satisfied.”*
 - It doesn’t say, “They were sustained.”
 - They were satisfied!
- They saw that Jesus would go beyond merely sustaining people but satisfying them.