MARK 6:30-44 (part 1)

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand
Parallel Passages

Matthew 14:13-21
Mark 6:30-44
Luke 9:10-17
John 6:1-15

*1 of 2 miracles in all 4 gospels – the other?
The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. 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. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 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. And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii[a] worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” 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.” Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.
30 The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. 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. 32 And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. 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. 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. 35 And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. 36 Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” 37 But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii[a] worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” 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.” 39 Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. 41 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. 42 And they all ate and were satisfied. 43 And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. 44 And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.
30 The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.

- Who are the apostles? Who are they not?
- Where are they returning from and why?
- What has happened while they were gone?
- By whose power were the disciples’ actions possible?
- What is this foreshadowing?
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.

- Who is them?
- Away from whom?
- Why a desolate place?
- What would they need to discuss?
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.

- Commanded to rest...but only for a while
- Why would they need rest?
- Why do we need to rest?
- How do you function without food?
- Who is concerned that their flock eats?
- What is this foreshadowing?
32 And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.

- Where/what did they go away from?
- Could the whole crowd fit in the boat?
- Desolate place - 3 times in chapter 6
  - 1:3, 1:4 – John preached in the wilderness
  - 1:12, 1:13 – Jesus was tempted
  - 1:35 – Jesus prayed in a desolate place
  - 1:45 – Jesus preached (crowd came to him)
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.

- Who saw them?
- Who was recognized?
- Why is this important to understand?
- What is this foreshadowing?
- Who ran on foot?
- What happened as they ran?
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.

- What does going ashore imply?
- Compassion – used 3 more times in Mark
  - 1:41 – cleanses the leper
  - 8:2 – Jesus feeds the Four Thousand
  - 9:22 – Jesus heals a boy with an unclean spirit
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.

• What does Jesus’s compassion show about his focus?
• What did this do to the circle?
• How do we miss opportunities to open up our circle?
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.

- What does a flock of sheep look like without a shepherd?
- Why do we need a shepherd?
• Spend some time with God in a desolate place.

• Find a way to make your circle larger.

• Decide which shepherd you are truly following.