

Following Jesus
24, The Twelve Waiters
Mark 6:30-44

I. We must Prepare as Humble Servants (v30-32) *v.30-31 - And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure [opportunity/time] so much as to eat.*

a. The Need for Rest

- i. Mark 6:4 - Jesus has been rejected in Nazareth.
- ii. Mark 6:7-13 – Jesus sent out the Twelve.
- iii. Mark 6:14-29 – John the Baptist is beheaded
 1. **Here is Jesus, in all the Wisdom of God while understanding the frailty of man: Jesus says to his disciples, it is time to get away from the crowds and rest.**
 2. Rest is built into the fabric of creation/humanity itself.
 - a. Creation – **Gen 2:1**
 - b. Ten Commandments – **Exo 20**
 - c. Wider Law – Every 7th Year should be rest for the Israeli's land.
 - d. New Testament. – Mark 2:27
 - e. The idea of sabbath, intentional rest, was made to be of benefit to man.
 3. **Matt 11:28-30 – Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...rest for your souls.**
 4. In the midst of the busyness and exhaustion of life
 5. Jesus beacons his disciples, **Come apart and rest with me.**

b. The Need for Intentionality v32 - *And they [Jesus and Disciples] departed into a desert place by ship privately.*

- i. They took a boat. Perhaps even pleasant for the fishermen to be back on a boat on the Sea of Galilee. Allowed them to shake off the crowd, even just for the journey.
- ii. Jesus is not suggesting that we become lazy in our obedience to Christ and define it as rest.
- iii. **It was about intentionally spending time resting with Jesus.**

II. We must Put on Heaven's Spectacles (v33-36) v. 33 - *And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him.*

- a. Jesus had Compassion. (v34)
 - i. Not only did Jesus give up his opportunity to rest to minister to others.
 - ii. **But he gave up so much of Himself for us.**
 - iii. **He views others as lost sheep, but through the compassionate lens of the GOOD SHEPHERD.**
 1. **John 10:11 - I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**
 2. **Jesus compassion for people was on full display because HE is GOD, He is the GOOD SHEPHERD, and HIS entire plan for man's redemption from sin is centered around ministering to sheep with no shepherd.**

b. The Disciples had Concerns (v35-36) v. 35-36 - *And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed: Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat.*

- i. The disciples' concerns weren't bad.
- ii. **How do you see others this morning?**
- iii. Do you view people with compassion as Jesus does?
- iv. **As lost sheep who need directed to a loving shepherd?**

- v. As people made in the image of God, who are marred by sin and have a need of a great Savior?
- vi. As eternal souls, with an eternal destiny?
- vii. If we are going to serve others like Jesus does, and imitate Him, **we must PUT ON HEAVEN'S SPECTACLES TO SEE PEOPLE AS HE DOES.**

III. We must Preserve in Hard Situations (v37-38) v. 37a - *He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat.*

a. He uses this as a special moment of teaching and training for the 12.

- i. 200 hundred pennyworth is between 8 months to a year's wages - for one meal! The disciples don't have this kind of resource!
- ii. Jesus says, Go and see; if there is any humanly possible way this can be done!
- iii. *Now, Jesus was not implying a finding the pragmatic solution here either.*
- iv. Jesus was proving to the disciples that there was no way to do **HIS WORK** outside of **HIS POWER**.
- v. *Something the disciples should have probably remembered from their recent missions trip.*

b. They forget that our God is the God of the impossible. The one who spoke creation into existence; he sustains to function and provide, so what is a single meal to Him?

- i. **Jeremiah 32:17** - Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and **there is nothing too hard for thee:**
- ii. **Luke 18:27** - The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.
- iii. But Jesus didn't just magically make this multiplication of the food happen: he sought the power of His Father.

IV. We must Participate in His Service (v41b) *V41b - and gave them to his disciples to set before them [the crowd]; and the two fishes divided he among them all.*

- a. This time, the bread doesn't rain from heaven. But it is multiplied in the Master's hands, and he **GIVES** it to his disciples to distribute to the people.
- b. God has always intended for **HIS** people to be **INVOLVED in HIS WORK**
 - i. God told Adam to name the creatures and tend the garden.
 - ii. God called Moses to go to and lead the people out of captivity.
 - iii. He used the prophets to proclaim His judgment and future hope.
 - iv. He used various people to write the Scriptures:
- c. JESUS has not called those who follow Him to take a backseat.
 - i. We are to **embrace involvement in HIS WORK.**
 - ii. **Matthew 28:19-20**
 - iii. **Acts 1:8**
- d. **It is important that we embrace HIS WORK in HIS WAY.**

V. We must Point to Heavenly Satisfaction (v42-44/John 6) *V42-44 - And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.*

- a. The entire point of this miracle was not simply to feed the people.
- b. He had compassion on their spiritual condition.
- c. **Jesus did this miracle to point people to HIMSELF.**

VI. Conclusion

- a. *Spend time, daily in preparation with Jesus.*
- b. *See others as Jesus does, with compassion, "as sheep without a shepherd"*
- c. *Be involved in the Master's work*
 - i. *Expect God to overcome the Impossibilities*
 - ii. *Embrace participation with Him*
 - iii. *Feed the multitude of hungry souls all around you.*