



Life Is (Doing) Good: Sermon Study Notes

Week of Sunday, October 18, 2009

Mark 6:32-44

MK 6:30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹ 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."

MK 6:32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³ But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ 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.

MK 6:35 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. ³⁶ Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

MK 6:37 But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

MK 6:38 "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."

When they found out, they said, "Five--and two fish."

MK 6:39 Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ 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 set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³ and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴ The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Questions:

- Read Mark 6:30-34
- What observations can you make about the following people in verses 30-36:
 - Jesus?
 - Jesus' Disciples?
 - The Crowds?
- Read Mark 6:35-37

- Notice the contrast between Jesus' response and his disciples' response to the crowd of people. What are some of the reasons you think the disciples responded as they did?
- Have you ever experienced "compassion fatigue" – where you feel drained, tapped out, without anything left to give to others? When have you felt this?
- It's interesting that Jesus said to his disciples, "You give them something to eat." What might have been his motive for involving them in the process? How did it make them feel?
- Jesus' command was not just unexpected or difficult – it was impossible! Why?
- Read Mark 6:38
- Commenting on this verse, Pastor Bryan noted that "Jesus knew that his disciples didn't have much, but he knew they had *something*." He wanted them to focus on what they *did* have rather than on what they *didn't* have. What's your most typical response: to focus on how you can help, or on why you can't.
- Think about your life – your possessions – your time commitments – your abilities and skills – your gifts and interests. What do you have that Jesus might use to bless someone? What has he used in the past?
- Read Mark 6:39-44
- What words, phrases, or images jump out from this text?
- Who do you think benefited more from the miracle that Jesus performed – the disciples or the crowd?
- How would the crowd have benefited? How do you think the disciples felt as these events unfolded? How do you think it changed them? What is the significance of the leftover 12 baskets? Why 12?
- Have you ever been blessed by someone who was doing good in Jesus' name? Have you ever experienced a time of growth in your relationship with Christ while being used by Him to bless other people?
- Have you found a way to 'do good' in your life this week? Have you utilized the cards that were distributed during the service on Sunday? Share your stories with one another.