



Companions
February 6, 2022
Mark 6:30-34; 53-56

Connect

- How would you define a *small victory*?
- Share a small victory you've experienced of late.

Engage

- Read *Mark 6:30-34* and *53-56*. Share any first impressions of reading these verses.
- Do you tend to see other people as companions or competitors? Discuss the difference and why you lean toward seeing folks one way or the other.
- Even if you don't aggressively see others as competitors to your attainment of resources, happiness, or otherwise, we all fall victim on occasion to a comparative scarcity mentality – a sense that others happiness or achievement lessens our opportunity for the same. How often do you compare your life to that of others? What does this do for your physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health?
- Jesus is coming off a tough time in ministry – his hometown neighbors and friends have rejected his message and now John the Baptist (*his cousin and confidant*) has been beheaded. He tried to get some space from it all by taking a boat ride with the Disciples. However, crowds followed on the shoreline until the ship ported again where thousands had gathered to see Jesus. Jesus sees the crowds and "*has compassion on them.*" Compassion literally meant a movement of the gut – a churning. He ached for their need. For whom do you have such compassion today? How are you responding to such need?
- Do you lean on your faith for "*home run miracles*" or does your faith claim small victories of growth and strength in your daily life? How does faith breed victory in your life?

Next Steps

- Remind yourself when you are out and about in the world this week that everyone you see is a companion in some way, not a competitor. When you see people as companions, you naturally desire to encourage them. Look for small victories in your own life and see them in others as well. Name them. Claim them. See how this impacts your overall mood and approach to life.

Pray

- "*Our days are filled with small victories, Lord. Give us eyes to see and celebrate each one. Such vision may change our entire outlook on our lives. May it be so. Amen.*"