

MARK 6:30-44 FEEDING THE 5000

REVIEW: Herod, Herodias, John Baptist

INTRO: Read **MK. 6:30-44**

- When remembering last week's sermon with today's we have the record of 2 feasts.
- Herod's elaborate gluttonous feast and now this simple affair of Jesus.
- Herod hosted only the first rate citizens, the nobles, the rulers, the elite of Galilee.
- Jesus hosted the common, the ill, the poor of Galilee.
- Herod's feast would have been humanly exquisite being prepared by the best chefs in the region, while the second meal was prepared in heaven by the very hand of God.
- Herod's had exotic entertainment while Jesus feast had the exposition of truth and the healing of the body and the soul.
- Herod's ended in murder and Jesus' ended with wonder and praise.
- Of all of the miracles recorded by the 4 gospel writers only 2 are recorded by all, this one and the resurrection.
- This incident takes place at the end of Jesus' Galilean ministry and served as the climax of this ministry.
- It is interesting to note that all of the 12 disciples but Judas were from Galilee. There were no big city boys here.
- 5000 Men. The word for "Men" is not the generic term for humanity but identifies males only. (Mt. 14:21)
- Estimates range from 10,000 -20,000 people in total.
- This incident was most likely within a year of Christ's crucifixion. This piece of bible history displays the compassion and care as well as the power and Kingship of Christ.
- Here He provides rest for the weary, food for the hungry, and truth for the seeking, which is still what He does today.

VS. 30 *Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. .*

- First notice the order of their report; They told Him all things (details, missing nothing), both what they had done and what they had taught.
 - Just like Acts 1:1, The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
- What they had done was based on what they were. Under authority and disciples, true followers of Jesus.
- It is more important to first be something than to do something. The doing is because of the being.

- From the being comes the doing and then teaching is built upon the doing.
- We are to be the embodiment of what we do and say. The order is most critical.
- When the 12 returned I am sure besides being excited they were also tired and weary and then the news of the death of John the Baptist would have added to their weariness.
- I wonder if they contemplated that John's fate could have been theirs, or was John's fate going to one day be theirs? **IT WAS.**

VS. 31 ³¹ *And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat*

- Jesus acknowledges that their ministry had been trying and tiring.
- Deserted place: A solitary, lonely place.
- God often meets with us in the solitary place just as we see Him doing repeatedly in the old testament with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Gideon, Elijah, Elisha, David, etc.... How about you and me?

VS. 32 ³² *So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.*

- I think the best rest that Jesus and the disciples had was the boat ride. The disciples did rest a bit while Jesus spoke and healed the sick. (Vs. 34)

VS. 33 ³³ *But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him.*

- These folks were so needy, hungry for truth and life they ran from city and village tracking Jesus's boat as it sails not far off the shore.
- Perhaps some traveled a distance of up to 6-10 miles.
- In the midst of a religious society with many teacher, scribes, Pharisees and rulers yet Jesus finds multitudes who appear to be starved for the truth.
- However the vast majority of them are led by curiosity, and the hunger of sensationalism.
 - Jn. 6:2; Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.

VS. 34 ³⁴ *And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.*

- **Compassion**: This particular use of the word is exclusively used in the bible of Jesus. It was a compassion that reached a level that was far deeper than human compassion, concern or empathy. It is to be moved as to ones inwards. Usually used of Christ's compassion toward the masses.
- Used 12X the last time in Luke 15 of the compassion of the father.
- It seems ironic to me that the Jewish nation was blessed as the chosen people of God. A people God had taken to Himself. God have given them His written word and divine oracles.
- Yet we find Him seeing them as sheep without a shepherd.
- Paul and Alyssa have recently seen humanity as sheep without a shepherd.... Me also Mozambique and Malawi.
- So we see Jesus again and again teaching them for they had not been taught nor had they learned the inner things of God and His Character. His heart.
- He again and again needed to reiterate the truths of the Kingdom of God and of Heaven.
- Their minds were filled with misconceptions of who their heavenly Father really was.
- We too must be taught and know the God Who is.
- Luke 9:11 tells us Jesus spoke to them things of the Kingdom of God, that is the things of the realms of salvation and life in God.
- Jesus speaking of the Kingdom of God and heaven is mentioned throughout the gospels at least a dozen times. Tell them of life in Jesus.

VS. 35, 36 & VS. 37 ³⁵ *When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. ³⁶ Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat."*³⁷ *But He answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat. "And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?"*

- The disciples came to Jesus and told Him He must send them away.
- Jesus responds and says we don't have to send them away; you give them something to eat. You take care of it, feed them.
- How shocked they must have been when Jesus put the task back on them.
- They must have forgotten their boasting of the great success they had on their mission just days ago.
- They must have forgotten the miracle of the wine.

- Yes all was impossible for them.
- They did not have the money, 200 denarii is about 8 months wages and still would only give each person a very little if anything at all
- There was nowhere to find the huge supply needed, nor the manpower to haul the bread and fishes from town to the solitary place.
- Nor the time to go purchase enough and bring it back as it was getting late. All was humanly impossible to them
- Christ is always commanding men to do that which is humanly impossible.
- Such as repentance, faith, the saving of others, overcoming sin, to be born again. These all are impossible to us apart from the Spirit of God, That which is impossible to man is possible to God. **(see Jn. 1:13)**
- John tells us in 6:6, But this He said to test them, for He Himself knew what He would do.
- We too are called to care for some, to feed and nourish before sending them away. Do we nourish?
- Jesus uses and blesses what is brought to Him and He can do more with a little than we can do with all. Will we bring, surrender ourselves to Him?
- I would imagine that this bread and fishes were the best they had ever tasted, just like the wine in John 2

VS. 38, 39 ³⁸ *But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish." 39, Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass.*

- JN. 6:4 tells us it was Passover time that would be spring, March or April when the grass would be fresh and green. PS. 23

VS. 40 ⁴⁰ *So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties.*

- Groups of 50/100, perhaps in a U shape making it easy to access and serve.
- They sat down in "Ranks" = "a garden bed." They looked to Christ as a garden bed. The red, blue and yellow clothing of the poorest Palestinians would make the crowd, full of colors, look like a flower garden.
- We must recognize the disciple's faith in Jesus, for at His word they arranged the great mass of humanity and had them sit patiently when as yet there was no miracle of multiplication.
- Imagine them all sitting there as the disciples told them to sit orderly as something was coming, I can't help but think of George Muller.

VS. 41 . ⁴¹ *And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all.*

- **John 6:8,9.** Jesus used the small offerings of a small boy to work a great miracle.
- How this young lad's heart must have flooded with joy that Jesus used him to perform this miracle. The thought of this would continue to bring him joy and confidence throughout the rest of his life.
- Let us not despise youth or what we think is of little value, put into God's hands it can become massive.
- The Greek seems to indicate the multiplication and miracle took place in His hands. "He brake and kept on giving and giving."
- I would have wanted to sit right up front and not missed a thing, how about you?

VS. 42 ⁴² *So they all ate and were filled.*

- This miracle feeding of the multitudes is a manifestation of what Abraham experienced in Gen. 22 where God supplied for Himself the sacrifice and Abraham confessed God, Jehovah Jireh, "the Lord Who provides."
- The multitude ate all they desired, they ate until they were filled and still there was more.
- Jesus brings us to His spiritual banqueting table and feeds us also.
 - Ps. 36:7, 8; How precious *is* Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. ⁸ They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.
- Oh to be God hungry for we can have all of Jesus we want. The lack is never on His side, it is us who are too satisfied with the way our life is to seek from Him more in His presence.
 - Song of Songs: 2:7, 3 ;5, 8:4; "Swear to me, you daughters of Jerusalem, By the gazelles or by the does of the field, That you will not disturb or awaken *my* love Until she pleases."

VS. 43 ⁴³ *And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish.*

- They took up 12 baskets full of leftovers. One for each of the disciples. Jesus takes care of His own.
- Jesus wastes nothing, all things work together....
- How the 12 must have had their hearts ablaze and their minds buzzing as they laid down for the night, tired but each with his basket in hand.

VS. 44 ⁴⁴ *Now those who had eaten the loaves were ^[c]about five thousand men.*

- JN. 6:15 they are so enthralled by Jesus they desire to take Him if need be by force and make Him king.
- How wonderful for the people to have a king who would not just heal their every disease but also feed them.
- Herod was no match for this Jesus.
- In JN. 6:14 the people make the comment "this is truly the prophet." An old testament reference to the Messiah. AND YET.....
- See **John 6:60-66**, that many of His disciples went back..
- Just the day before they wanted to make Him the Messiah King.
- Many though had seen the miracles, sat under His teaching awe struck, walked with Him as disciples, yet their motives were wrong. They sought the sensational and not the Son.

CONCLUSION:

- This piece of bible history is a wonderful picture spiritually what Jesus does for His own.
- His teaching of the truth pointed to the fact that He is the Truth.
- His ability to miraculously feed them and satisfy their hunger is a picture of Him giving us His life as spiritual food and drink as we daily feast in and on Him. (**John 6:32-35, 41, 48-58.**)
- Jesus' display of power and compassion in the physical world symbolizes His desire and ability to supply all our need in the soul and spirit.
- (PS.23 The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not ^[a]want. ² He makes me to lie down in ^[b]green pastures; He leads me beside the ^[c]still waters. ³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.)
- Jesus desires to feed us, to truly nourish our souls, will I come to Him, will I take the time to commune with him.
- Jesus said to the disciples what we can only know if we spend time with God in obedient stillness. JN. 4:32, 34