

## **MARK 6:30-44 FEEDING THE 5000**

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

- This incident takes place towards the end of Jesus' Galilean ministry and served as the climax of this ministry.

### **VS. 33**

- 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** <sup>34</sup> *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 to ones inwards. Usually used of Christ's compassion toward the masses.
- Used 12X
- **What caused His compassion?** Seeing men and women without a shepherd.
- What importance God lays on being shepherded and all that this means.
- No mavericks on their own, but all under a under shepherd who is under the Great, the Chief Shepherd.

**VS. 35, 36 & VS. 37** <sup>35</sup> *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. <sup>36</sup> Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat."<sup>37</sup> 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, "send them away."
- Jesus responds "we don't have to send them away;" You take care of it, you feed them.
- Their boasting just days ago of power, deeds and success had now evaporated when put under pressure.
- Had they forgotten the miracle of the wine?
- John tells us in 6:6, but this He said to test them, for He Himself knew what He would do.

- They looking at the situation humanly it was an impossible request.
- They did not have the money, 200 denarii is about 8 months wages.
- There was nowhere to find the huge supply needed,
- Nor the manpower to haul the bread and fishes from town
- 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 leading men to do that which is humanly impossible.
- Such as repentance, faith, overcoming sin, leading someone to Christ, or even ourselves 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)**
- Jesus uses and blesses what is brought to Him. He can do more with a little than we can do with all.
- Will we bring, surrender ourselves to Him? Give Him the impossible.

***VS. 38, 39, 40, <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties.***

- JN. 6:4 tells us it was Passover time that would be spring, late March or early April when the grass would be fresh and green.
- Groups of 50/100, perhaps in a U shape, 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, looking 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 . <sup>41</sup> 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.***

- Always look to heaven.
- 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.
- Do not despise your youth; give to Jesus what you do have. Do it now.

- Don't despise what you 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 gave and kept on giving and giving."
- I would have wanted to sit right up front and not missed a thing, how about you?
- I would imagine the quality was the finest, just like the wine in John 2

**VS. 42** <sup>42</sup> *So they all ate and were filled.*

- This miracle feeding of the multitudes is a manifestation and revelation of Jesus the God Man declaring Himself to be "Jehovah Jireh.
- He Whom Abraham experienced in Gen. 22,.... 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. <sup>8</sup> 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 our present life thus forsaking to seek more of Him.
  - **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."
  - LK. 10:41, 42; One thing is needful... And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. <sup>42</sup> But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." Sitting at the feet of Jesus.
  - (I want more of Jesus, more and more and more...)

**VS. 43** <sup>43</sup> *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.
- How the 12 must have had their hearts ablaze and their minds buzzing as they lay down for the night, tired, but alive with the day's wonders, and each with his basket in hand.
- Jesus wastes nothing, nothing is to be lost. (Jn. 6:12) all things work together.... No trial, no tribulation.

**VS. 44** <sup>44</sup> *Now those who had eaten the loaves were 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.
- 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 6:66**, that many of His disciples went back..
- Just the day before they wanted to make Him the Messiah King.
- Many 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 spiritual picture of what Jesus does for His own. He feeds and shepherds.
- Am I eating and following? Am I communing and being shepherded?
- His teaching of the truth pointed to the fact that He is the Truth.
- His display of power in the physical world symbolizes His desire and ability to supply all our need not only in body, but also soul and spirit.
- His ability to miraculously feed them and satisfy their hunger in the physical, is a picture of Him giving us His life as spiritual food and drink (**John 6:32-35, 41, 48-58.**)
- Jesus desires to feed us, to truly nourish our souls, will I come to Him, will I take the time to commune with him.

### **CLOSING: BENEDICTION**

(PS.23 The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.)