

The Gospel of Mark

Walking with the Servant Savior

Lesson 10 Mark 6:30-56

Day One: Getting Away

Upon completion of the disciples' first mission, Mark switches from using the title of *disciples* to that of *apostles*. They were now officially the *sent ones* and, as the teams of two returned, they gathered to Jesus and told Him all that they had done and taught (v. 30). They went out as student teachers and came back rich in experience and full of stories, declaring their excitement for preaching God's Word and performing miracles in God's power!

Read Mark 6:30-56

1. Discerning the need of the hour, how does Jesus immediately direct the twelve?
v. 31
 - a. What personal note does Mark add in verse 31 that is indicative of their need to come aside?

2. What mode of transportation did they once again choose? v. 32

This boat was most probably the same one used earlier to cross the Sea of Galilee.

3. Where does Luke's gospel account say that they made shore? Luke 9:10

The disciples apparently knew of a prime spot where they could withdraw for a time to get some much needed rest. What a beautiful—and very human—picture Mark presents here. God's work is very important, but so is rest and refreshment to keep going. Even God rested from his work of Creation (Genesis 2), not because He was tired, but to enjoy the fruit of His labor. When He gave the law to His people, He instituted one day in seven for His people to do the same.

Jesus and His men were usually busy from dawn to dusk—can you relate? Is life pressing in on you right now? Jesus models for you the right action to take when too much “business” and tiredness take control: *get away with Him!*

By making a couple of adjustments, you could probably see yourself in this scene with these men. Trade the Sea of Galilee for your neighborhood and their boat for your car, and maybe you feel right at home in this picture: *lots of noise, busy streets, crowds of people, eating on the run, no time to stop, got to get to that next place to do that next thing!* At the end of the day you hope for a few hours rest so you can get up the next day and repeat the cycle all over again . . . and again . . . and again.

Selah . . . Write your name below in the spaces provided.

In Psalm 103:14, the Lord reminds you that *He knows _____ frame. He knows that _____ is dust.* In other words, He knows what you are made of and how fragile you can be. He knows that you can get too busy, even doing His work.

❖ As you sit quietly in His presence today, what would you like for Him to know?

4. If God believes in taking a holiday, shouldn't you follow His example?

a. What do you stand to *gain* when you do get away with Jesus?

b. What do you stand to *lose* by not getting away?

Whether at home or away from home, getting away with Jesus is a must! Each time you withdraw from the hustle and bustle to be with Him, you become refreshed by His presence and refilled with His power, ready to meet the challenges ahead. What could be better than that? Think about it.

Heartbeat . . . (Memory verse) “*And He said to them, ‘Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.’*” Mark 6:31a

Day Two:

Impossible and Unexplainable

What to look for...

The feeding of the five thousand is the only one of Jesus' miracles recorded in all four gospel accounts. It is considered one of the key events in His ministry, demonstrating once again His lordship over creation.

Read Mark 6:33-44; Matthew 14:10-21; Luke 9:10-17; and John 6:1-15.

The retreat intended for Jesus and His disciples turned out to be a brief boat trip, as the crowds realized where they were headed and rushed out on foot to meet them at their destination.

1. When Jesus went ashore He was moved with compassion to respond to the crowd. To what did He liken the people and what did He do for them? v. 34
 - a. What further insight does Luke 9:11 add to this scene? (Notice we do not read that Jesus asked the disciples to teach or heal; He knew they were tired and in need of rest.)

There are many instances in the Bible where God's people are described as sheep that are completely dependent on their shepherd to guide, protect, and provide for them. (Ezekiel 34:23 foretold of the coming of one who would tend God's flock and be their shepherd.)

- b. In John 10:11, how does Jesus refer to himself? To what extent is He willing to go in order to care for His sheep?

After much teaching and healing, the disciples took note of the lateness of the hour and came to Jesus to recommend the people be sent to nearby villages to buy food for themselves.

2. How did Jesus answer them? v. 37
 - a. Quickly doing the math, what did the disciples think of this idea?

How could they be expected to give the people something to eat? The disciples calculated the numbers, but Jesus was about to take inventory of the resources.

3. What did they find at their disposal? vv. 38-40 Was it enough?
 - a. Who offered these supplies? See John 6:9
 - b. How did Jesus organize the people?

The disciples easily recognized the impossibility of the situation, but they knew enough at this point to obey Jesus' instructions. As they complied, there in the wilderness the Good Shepherd fed His sheep.

4. Jesus took the loaves and the fishes in His hands and did what? v. 41
 - a. He placed the provisions into the hands of the disciples to do what?
 - b. As the people received the provisions into their hands, what resulted?
vv. 42-43
 - c. How many were fed that day? What does Matthew 14:21 add to the number?

Jesus saw the need of His people and performed the impossible and unexplainable! What seemed insufficient, in His hands became an abundant supply with leftovers.

5. *Personal:* Have *you* been given an impossible task to do? How have you responded? Have you calculated using your own reasoning or have you looked to God for His resources? Please share your thoughts.

Amazingly, when you ask, God answers with the impossible. Whatever He gives you to use, be it your time, talent, or resources, as you offer it back to Him, He multiplies it for you to bless others. Be specific and practical as you consider the following:

- What has the Lord placed in your hands today? *“Go and see . . .”*
- What does He ask you to do with it? *“You give them something to eat.”*
- Ask God to show you which sheep need to receive what you have to give, and then thank Him for using you.

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Three: Many Touched Him

What to look for . . .

As the day came to a close and everyone finished eating, Jesus immediately told the Twelve to get into a boat and go on ahead to Bethsaida (v. 45) while He dismissed the crowd. (John's account explains why Jesus was eager to send everyone on their way.)

Read Mark 6:45-52; Matthew 14:22-33; and John 6:16-21.

1. After everyone departed, where did Jesus go? v. 46

2. Mark records three instances when Jesus withdrew to spend time alone with the Father. Before us is one account, what are the other two? See Mark 1:35 and Mark 14:32-42.
 - a. In comparing the intensity of these three accounts when Jesus sought solitude, what sense do you get about the need in the Lord's heart at this particular time?
3. When evening came, where were the disciples? vv. 48-50
 - a. Where was Jesus? What did He see them doing?

From early evening until the fourth watch of the night (between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00 A.M.) the disciples had been straining at the oars, battling the fierce winds and no doubt thinking they had been left alone.

- b. What action did Jesus take?

Mark states that Jesus would have *passed them by*, most likely meaning that He intended to *pass their way*.

- c. As He did pass their way, how did they respond? Why?
- d. With what words did He encourage them?

The Greek translation of the words, "*It is I*" means "*I AM*." It is the name God called Himself in the Old Testament (Exodus 3:14) when He intended to rescue His people.

4. The presence of Jesus always makes a difference. vv. 51-52
 - What effect did Jesus have on the forces of nature?
 - What effect did He have on the disciples? Did they understand?

Have you been in deep water before? Where you all alone with no one to turn to? When you find yourself in that kind of situation, don't allow your heart to become hardened by your circumstances. When you're in a tough spot and you've lost sight of the Lord, remember that He has not lost sight of you! Jesus—the I AM—sees what you're going through; He cares about your need and will answer your call for help.

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Four:

Recognizing Jesus

What to look for...

Jesus had gained a reputation for healing and everywhere He went—whether in small towns or big cities—the crowds came to Him with their sick and He healed them all.

Read Mark 6:53-56

1. Since the storm had blown the boat off course, where did Jesus and the disciples make land? vv. 53-55
 - a. What immediately happened once they were on shore?
 - b. As the news of Jesus' arrival quickly spread, what did the people do?
2. What does Mark state took place wherever Jesus went? v. 56

The disciples who followed Jesus closely had witnessed great miracles and yet their hearts remained somewhat hardened (v. 52). The people flocked to Jesus not for the message, but for the miracles and the healings. Few actually recognized who He was and that He came to bring spiritual healing.

Continually faced with the unbelief of those closest to Him and the thrill-seeking mentality of the crowds, Jesus always demonstrated compassion and love for the people regardless of why they came.

3. *Personal:* Why have you come? Do you recognize Jesus for who He truly is? If you have a desire to reach out and touch Him, then He invites you to come; but it's possible to miss the point if you are concerned more about the well-being of your physical body than your spiritual soul. He wants to transform you—every bit of you, starting from the inside out!
4. What happens when a person receives Christ as their personal Savior? See 2 Corinthians 5:17.

If you would like to be made new today, just bow your heart and ask Jesus Christ to come inside to forgive your sin and fill you with His Holy Spirit. If you pray this prayer recognizing your need for Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you will also begin to bear fruits worthy of repentance (Matthew 3:8). In other words, your behavior will reveal to the world your true transformation!

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Five:

Praying God's Purpose

It's time to do some *prayer walking*—not in the literal, but the *spiritual* sense. The Holy Spirit will lead you today as you consider three points from your lesson, write them in the form of a prayer, and lift them to the Lord. If practicing the presence of God is new to you—be patient—it will come, and you will be blessed!

"... We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." Romans 8:26-27 NLT

A prayer for getting away...

If you have a hard time disconnecting and retreating for some much needed rest, ask God to help you use wisdom to know the best time. Everyone needs a break and taking one improves your outlook and potentially the outlook of those around you as well.

A prayer for expecting the impossible...

If you're in a place of great need today, ask God for His resources to meet the need and then expect Him to act on your behalf. Don't forget to thank Him.

A prayer for increased faith...

Do you have a hard time believing that God's promises are meant for you as much as for every other Christian? Confess any hardness of heart and ask Him to help you believe.

Write out this week's verse from memory:

Notes