

SCRIPTURE: MARK 6:30–44

OPENING

Read Mark 6:30–44. The disciples have just returned from their first mission trip with Jesus. They are tired, Jesus is grieving the death of John the Baptist, and they are trying to get away from the crowds for some rest. But when they arrive, the crowds are waiting.

Instead of seeing an inconvenience, Jesus sees people who need a Shepherd. Jesus provides in ways we often don't expect. He provides perspective, opportunities to serve, the next step, grace when we return to Him, and ultimately satisfaction.

1. Jesus Provides a New Perspective (Mark 6:34)

“He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.”

Jesus was exhausted and grieving, but when He saw the crowd, compassion came out. The disciples saw a problem. Jesus saw people who needed a Shepherd. We all have people in our lives who require “extra grace.” Our natural response can be frustration, avoidance, or impatience. But Jesus gives us a different lens.

Discussion:

- Who are the people in your life who tend to require “extra grace” from you?
- Why is compassion sometimes difficult when we're tired, busy, or overwhelmed?
- What would change if you intentionally tried to see that person the way Jesus sees them? a new heaven and a new earth!). How can this assurance grow us into more and more meekness?

2. Jesus Provides So You Can Provide (Mark 6:37–38)

Jesus tells the disciples, *“You give them something to eat.”*

The disciples immediately focus on what they don't have. Jesus focuses on what they do have. Five loaves and two fish didn't seem like enough—but when what we have is placed in Jesus' hands, He can do far more with it than we can. God doesn't need us to have everything. He asks us to faithfully give Him what we already have.

Discussion:

- What has God placed in your hands right now?
- Where do you tend to say, “I don't have enough”?
- What would it look like to put that thing back into God's hands?

3. Jesus Provides the Next Step (Mark 6:39–40)

Jesus doesn't tell the disciples to figure out how to feed 5,000 people. He simply tells them what to do next: *“Have the people sit down.”* Sometimes we become overwhelmed because we're trying to solve the entire problem at once. Jesus often gives us something much simpler: **the next faithful step**. We don't have to fix everything today. We just need to be faithful in the now.

Discussion:

- What situation in your life feels overwhelming right now? What is one small, faithful step Jesus might be asking you to take?
- Why do we sometimes want God to show us the whole plan instead of just the next step?
- What would “being faithful in the now” look like for you this week?

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4. Jesus Provides When We Return to Him (Mark 6:41)

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Jesus gives the bread and fish to the disciples, and the disciples give it to the people. But they must keep coming back to Jesus for more. The supply doesn’t run out. That is a picture of God’s grace. We don’t receive God’s provision once and then figure out the rest on our own. We continually return to Him. God doesn’t ration His grace. .

Discussion:

- When you’re running low spiritually, emotionally, or relationally, where do you tend to turn first?
- What keeps us from returning to Jesus when we’re empty?
- What does it practically look like to “come back to Jesus” throughout the day?
- Where do you need God’s grace right now?

5. Jesus Provides Satisfaction (Mark 6:42–44)

“They all ate and were satisfied.”

The disciples began the day thinking they didn’t have enough. They ended the day holding twelve baskets full of leftovers. Jesus didn’t merely provide enough. He provided satisfaction.

We often think satisfaction will come from getting more—more money, more success, more possessions, more recognition. But Jesus shows us something different. There is a deep satisfaction that comes from trusting God, giving what He has placed in our hands, and watching Him use it.

Discussion:

- Where are you tempted to look for satisfaction apart from Jesus?
- Why do you think giving can produce a deeper sense of joy than simply getting?
- What has God provided in your life that you sometimes overlook?

SCRIPTURE

Write which passage of scripture you are reading.

OBSERVATION

What is this text saying? What is the context? How does it fit with the verses before and after it? Are there any commands or instructions?

APPLICATION

How can you apply this verse to your life? What does this mean today? What is God saying to you?

PRAYER

Respond to the passage in prayer. Ask God to help you apply this truth to your life and spend some time listening to what He may be telling you.
