

Group Study Guide

First Baptist Church Merritt Island

Back to School, part 1

Mark 6:30-44

June 10th, 2018

Main Point

Jesus's feeding of the 5,000 is a re-teaching of a previous lesson that the disciples had not learned. We need to pay close attention since Jesus will be teaching us this same lesson over and over as well.

Getting Started

Today's passage describes the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000+ people in a remote place. Keep in mind that this miracle occurred when the disciples were about to take a break with Jesus. They had just returned from a demanding ministry assignment (Mark 6:7-13). After the disciples returned to Jesus to report the incredible results of their journeys, Jesus invited them to a remote place to rest and to get away. But there's no rest for the weary in this story! As soon as a crowd saw them moving away, they anticipated where Jesus and his disciples were going and met them there. Jesus had compassion on the crowd and began teaching them. At some point later in the day, the disciples suggested that Jesus dismiss the crowd so that they could get food in nearby villages, and that's when the miracle happens. Pay close attention to this familiar story to see and hear what Jesus wanted to teach his disciples about himself and the mission of God.

Observation

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a topic.

Have a volunteer read Mark 6:30-44.

What ministry trip had the disciples just completed? Why did Jesus invite them to get away and rest?

Where did Jesus and the disciples go? How did they get there? Who saw them leave?

When Jesus stepped ashore, what did he see? How did he feel about the crowd of people? What does that tell us about Jesus?

At the end of a long day of teaching, the disciples encouraged Jesus to dismiss the crowd so that they may buy food. Jesus told the disciples to give them something to eat. What do you think Jesus wanted to teach the disciples?

How did the disciples respond to Jesus' suggestion? The disciples estimated that it would cost about 8 months of a man's wages to feed all the people gathered.

How much food did the disciples have on them? What did Jesus instruct the people to do? How did they gather in groups?

How many baskets of broken pieces were left over? Why did Mark include this detail about Jesus miracle? What does that teach us about Jesus?

Application

The disciples returned after completing a draining ministry assignment only to encounter 5,000 people waiting for them! When have you felt drained only to discover people waiting on you for your time and attention? What did you do? How do we know when to 'draw the line' to get the rest we need? How do we know when we should press on despite feeling drained and in need of rest?

What do we learn about Jesus from this story? Consider Jesus' words, emotions and actions.

What do we learn about the disciples from this story? What do you think Jesus wanted to teach them?

What is Jesus saying to you personally from this Bible story?

Share with your group a time when Jesus came through for you in a big way. Celebrate what God did and listen to others share their stories.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for providing all my needs. Help me trust you with what you have given me. You can do a lot with a just a little. Use this story of the feeding of the 5,000 to strengthen my faith in your goodness and faithfulness today.

Commentary

6:30 Mark refers to Jesus' sending of the disciples. The disciples learn Jesus' message by listening to his teaching, by proclaiming what he proclaims and by reporting upon their return all they had done and taught.

6:34 Despite his need for rest, Jesus has compassion. He sees the people as being like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus continues to teach them, functioning as the good shepherd who calls for repentant submission to the messianic rule of God.

6:36-37 The disciples plausible request is met with Jesus' thought provoking response. The disciples in turn respond with mild sarcasm. The amount of money they suggested represented about 200 day's wages for a laborer.

6:41-42 Jesus depends on his heavenly Father in this miracle of multiplying food. As the true shepherd, he satisfies them. as God provided manna in the desert, so Jesus provides food in a deserted place. The focus is thus not on the miracle itself but on the

one who worked it. Jesus is not merely a prophet; he acts as God acts. The feeding of the 5,000 reinforces Jesus' proclamation. After feeding them to Word of God, they now miraculously receive bread and fish. Once again, the question of Jesus' true identify is raised and once gain the disciples do not understand.

6:43 as with the miracles of Elijah and Elisha, much food is left over (1 Kings 17:16 and 2 Kings 4:7, 42-44). Jesus did not want any food to be wasted.