Mrk21 - Is Jesus Your Source? - Mark 6:30-44

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There are Two Perspectives
that we can look at today's text FROM

We can look at it from the **PEOPLE'S Perspective** (the Crowd)

OR – we can look at it from the DISCIPLE'S Perspective

<u>I've Chosen</u> (for us) to look at it from the <u>Disciple's Perspective</u>

& so – the Title – *IS Jesus Your Source?*

Is Jesus your Source – for ALL that you need
In EVERY CRISIS MOMENT - in your LIFE?

CAN you LOOK to him - AS Your SOURCE

& CAN you *Trust Him to PROVIDE*What you truly need?

Let's Pray

IS Jesus your Source?

& Please – **Don't be thinking** of **Physical** & **Earthly Needs**

IF Jesus - IS Truly Our SOURCE then we MUST Re-Align our Thinking

We have to STOP - thinking ABOUT This World & thinking LIKE this World

& **We Have** to **START** – thinking **ABOUT Jesus** & thinking **LIKE Jesus**

<u>Today</u> - <u>Jesus</u> is <u>going to PROVE</u> - To <u>His Disciples</u> - That <u>He</u> is the <u>TRUE SOURCE</u> - For <u>all that they Need</u>

My Questions Are - Two:

- 1) **CAN WE** Truly **RECEIVE That** & **BELIEVE it?**
- 2) <u>IF WE CAN</u> Then <u>HOW</u> do we <u>BEGIN LIVING LIKE</u> we <u>believe it?</u>

Remember – <u>2 Messages</u> ago In <u>our Msg</u> Titled "<u>Simple Gospel</u>"

Jesus sent his Disciples out on their FIRST Missionary Journey

So our text begins today with the Disciples Returning

Totally & Completely EXHAUSTED

From their FIRST Missions Trip

Mark 6:30-31 (NLT)

30 The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught.

31 Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat.

The <u>Disciples</u> (or Apostles) <u>came back</u> with a <u>Great Testimony</u> - But <u>Completely EXHAUSTED</u>

They had Taken nothing w/ them But a Walking Stick

they **told everyone** they met to **REPENT** - & **turn to God**

they **cast out demons** & **healed** the **sick**

& they <u>ALSO EXPERIENCED</u>
Plenty of <u>Rejection</u>, & <u>Difficulty</u>

& <u>as soon</u> as they <u>got back</u> to <u>Jesus</u> they <u>Didn't even</u> have <u>time</u> to <u>EAT</u> –

So - <u>They</u> were <u>NOW</u> – <u>STRETCHED</u> to the <u>BREAKING POINT</u>

& so <u>Jesus</u> says "Man, you guys need some REST"

It Reminds me of a Nursery Rhyme (maybe you've heard it)

Mary had a little lamb, It was given to the church to keep, But it tried to meet all the needs it self, And died for lack of sleep!

<u>THAT</u> – is Exactly <u>WHERE</u> the <u>Disciples Are</u> <u>RIGHT NOW</u>

So - we read - Mark 6:32 (NLT)

32 So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone.

Jesus was taking the Disciples on a REJUVENATION Experience

BUT – it was **DEFINITELY NOT** going to be **what they expected**

Jesus is Purposefully TAKING

His **Exhausted** – **Stretched-to-the-Breaking-Point** Disciples

INTO an Unexpected - Pressure-Filled Situation

SO THAT they might LEARN

a Greater & Deeper Lesson

about WHO Their TRUE SOURCE IS

for ALL that they need - in EVERY Situation

In Order TO DO

All that He has Called them TO DO

Here's a question

HOW do we **LEARN** – that **Jesus** is **TRULY the SOURCE**

For ALL that we need

In Order TO DO

ALL that He has **Called us TO DO?**

We **learn** it **Best** – By **EXPERIENCE**, **don't we?**

We learn it – by Meeting Jesus

in the Middle - of a Breaking-Point Situation

Where we HAVE TO - LOOK TO HIM as our Complete & Miraculous SOURCE

Which is Exactly what the Disciples are about to experience

So – **Jesus** & the **Disciples left**

For what the Disciples thought was going to be - a little R & R

Then - Mark 6:33 says (NLT)

33 But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them.

The Sailing on the Galilee
was Generally done NEAR the shore

- & maybe they were sailing Against the Wind that day
- & the people were Running along the Shore with the boat
- & the **more people followed** the **more people started following**

<u>until</u> it was <u>thousands of people</u> gathering<u>where</u> the <u>boat</u> finally <u>landed</u> - at <u>Bethsaida</u> (most likely)

Mark 6:34 (NLT)

34 Jesus <u>saw</u> the huge crowd <u>as he stepped from the boat</u>, and he had <u>compassion</u> on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began <u>teaching</u> them many things.

Jesus **SAW the Huge Crowd** & he had **COMPASSION** on them

Because they were like SHEEP - without a SHEPHERD

& so He began TEACHING them - SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

His <u>COMPASSION</u> on them – <u>Drove Him</u> To <u>TEACH</u> them - <u>SPIRITUAL TRUTHS</u>

This is a BIG DEAL – for people who think the Church should be Primarily a Social Service Center

WHEN Jesus had <u>COMPASSION</u> on <u>People</u>
He <u>TAUGHT THEM</u> – <u>Deep Spiritual Truths</u>

BUT... What about the Disciples?

The <u>Disciples</u> – <u>Are Saying</u> to each other <u>right now</u> - Wait a minute – it's THESE People – AGAIN ??

HOW did this Happen?
We just needed a little REST

We've been Burning The Candle At Both Ends We needed some serious R & R

WHAT in the world is Jesus Doing?

<u>Jesus</u> – is <u>teaching the People</u> – <u>Spiritual Truths</u> <u>because</u> he <u>Had Compassion</u> on them

BUT . . . the Disciples were **Probably KICKIN ROCKS**

- & <u>Mumbling</u> to each other <u>about how</u> <u>this</u> whole "<u>Serving Jesus Thing</u>" is just <u>NOT FAIR</u>
- & they had NO IDEA Just HOW UNFAIR
 THIS was ABOUT to GET

Because Now - it was getting late in the day

& the <u>Disciples</u> <u>SAW their CHANCE</u>
To <u>Get some</u> of that <u>REST</u> - <u>they deserved</u>

Mark 6:35-36 (NLT)

- 35 Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late.
- 36 <u>Send the crowds away</u> so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat."

Do you sense a bit
 of "AN EDGE" in the Disciples Words?

Jesus, we came to get some Rest, Right?

& We've been putting up with all your "Ministry Stuff" day - after day - after day

"Can we just get a break already?"

So - (w/ a bit of an attitude)

The **Disciples TELL** Jesus to **send crowds away** for **dinner**

& then we read in Mark 6:37(a) (NLT)

37 But Jesus said, "You feed them" . . .

The "YOU" in Emphatic & Imperative - it's a stern & direct command!

WHHHAAATTT ???

Did <u>Jesus</u> just tell <u>US</u> - to Feed - <u>ALL</u> these people? <u>OH NO HE DID NOT</u> !!!

WHAT Exactly Does He EXPECT US to FEED all these people - WITH?

Guy - Listen to me Please

Every Day,

in Every Circumstance - & in Every Situation

Those who are Following & Serving Jesus

MUST KNOW

Jesus - Is Their Source - for ALL that they need

TO DO - ALL that He has Called them TO DO

& So - <u>Jesus</u> - <u>RIGHT HERE</u> – is <u>DEMANDING</u> that <u>His Disciples</u> <u>Do Something</u> – <u>that is IMPOSSIBLE</u>

<u>Fortunately</u> - The <u>Apostle John</u> (in his gospel) <u>adds Some Commentary</u> – Right here

In John's account here - John 6:6 says (NLT)

6 He was testing [them], for he already knew what he was going to do.

Oh . . . IT'S a test . . . IT'S a test man!!

But the Disciples
DIDN'T KNOW - it was a test

Because they didn't have

John's Gospel to explain it

<u>& so – they REACT to Jesus – in Mark 6:37(b) (NLT)</u>

37... (Jesus says, YOU feed them) "<u>With what?</u>" they asked. "We'd have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!"

The Disciples – Are FLABBERGASTED & More than a Little DISRESPECTFUL

I THINK the Disciples are saying

Jesus - This isn't <u>HOW</u> this is <u>Supposed to WORK</u>
This isn't <u>HOW ANY</u> of this is <u>Supposed to WORK</u>

& <u>THIS</u> is the <u>Last Straw!</u>
We <u>CAN'T Feed</u> these people – <u>No Matter What We Do</u>

& so <u>Jesus</u> (In his GRACE) <u>CONTINUES</u> the <u>TEST</u>

& - THIS is a TEST
That Applies to Every One of us – who Call Jesus LORD

Mark 6:38(a) (NLT)

38 "How much bread <u>do</u> you have?" he asked. "Go and find out".

This is IT – You could Easily SNAP – Right Here

Seriously? Now Jesus wants us to wander thru this stadium crowd

asking everyone . . . Excuse me, did you happen to bring 5,000 sandwiches with you today?

This was HUMILIATING - in a PRIDE BREAKING sort of way

& Maybe **YOU'D** just WALK AWAY from it all - right then

"I was in, I was <u>serving</u> the Lord, I was <u>right</u> with him, Until he <u>asked me</u> to do something <u>CRAZY</u>"

"I mean, <u>THAT</u> was <u>IT</u>, when <u>He asked</u> me to do <u>THAT</u>, I had <u>had enough</u>"

"I went back to doing things MY OWN WAY

Because Jesus wasn't even - MAKIN ANY SENSE"

Buuuttt – it was A TEST! It was A TEST – MAN!! - - - & YOU WALKED AWAY??

Do you Know what COULD HAVE Happened

If you Would Have Just PRESSED Thru the Test?

If you Would Have Just TRUSTED Jesus?

& instead - You GAVE UP ???

Fortunately – the Disciples
DID NOT – GIVE UP

Altho they were Most Probably – NOT HAPPY
They STILL DID what Jesus Asked

Because Jesus was STILL Their LORD

They <u>STILL DID</u> what Jesus <u>Asked</u>

Because Jesus was STILL Their LORD

So - Cont'g in Mark 6:38(b) (NLT)

38 . . . They came back and reported, "We have five loaves of bread and two fish."

That's IT Jesus - THAT'S ALL we Found

& Then - The TEST - Continues

Mark 6:39 says (NLT)

39 Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass.

WHAT?? - Another test?? . . . YEAH, Another Test

The **Disciples** were at their **wits-end** from **Ministry**

They **had** a **Glimmer of hope** – that they **might** get **some Rest**

<u>Instead Jesus</u> tells them to <u>feed 5,000 People</u>

& They CRACK – Momentarily

But **then** they **Obey** - & **find a boy** with a **Sack Lunch**

& now – with the Disciples holding - One Kid's SACK LUNCH

Jesus tells them

To SIT 5,000 People down - TO EAT!!

Now - THIS - is an ADMIN NIGHTMARE

The Disciples are **EXHAUSTED**

They're **STRETCHED Thin**

They're on their LAST NERVE

& <u>Jesus says</u> – <u>Now</u>, <u>go</u> <u>sit 5,000 people</u> down in <u>Orderly GROUPS</u>

SO THAT you can <u>feed them</u>
with <u>One Boy's</u> - <u>Left-Over School Lunch!</u>

IT'S A TEST - Man !!

But listen - it's a <u>Test</u> - to <u>PROVE SOMETHING</u> to these <u>poor</u>, <u>weary Disciples</u>

This is a TEST to PROVE that Jesus is their SOURCE – for ALL that they need

<u>In EVERY Situation</u> – that <u>He Puts Them IN</u>
<u>No Matter how *Overwhelming* – IT SEEMS</u>

So – the <u>Disciples</u> were <u>Still</u> <u>Staggering</u> from <u>Fatigue</u>

They're <u>Trying</u> their <u>Best</u> <u>Not to GRUMBLE</u> - (at least out loud)

& - to their Credit - they just KEPT ON . . . OBEYING

& Mark 6:40 says (NLT)

40 So they sat (the people) down in groups of fifty or a hundred.

Ok Jesus - We don't know WHY

But we just sat a STADIUM full of people Down in nice equal Groups

& NOW . . . Finally - - COMES The LESSON

The Lesson - That Jesus Christ

is the **Absolute SOURCE** – For **ALL that we NEED!!**

IN Order TO DO - All that He Calls us TO DO

Mark 6:41(a) (NLT)

41 Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them . . .

Being Jewish

Jesus may well have given

the <u>Traditional Jewish Blessing</u> for the <u>Bread</u>

& So – I learned it for you $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam hamotzi lehem min ha'aretz.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Mark 6:41(b) (NLT)

41 . . . Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he <u>KEPT GIVING</u> the bread to the disciples so <u>they</u> could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share.

& <u>JESUS</u> – <u>BECAME the SOURCE</u> of ALL that the Disciples Needed

In order TO DO - ALL that Jesus Called them TO DO

& <u>the Phrase</u> - "<u>Kept Giving</u>" (v.41) - <u>is</u> the <u>correct translation</u> It's <u>in</u> the <u>Greek Imperfect Tense</u>

Jesus <u>KEPT GIVING</u>, & <u>Kept Giving</u>, & Kept Giving <u>Until</u> he <u>Gave ALL</u> that the <u>Disciples needed</u>

He Became the SOURCE

of **ALL** that the **Disciples Needed**

In order for them TO DO

ALL that He Called them TO DO

Guys - Listen to me Please

Jesus Is Our Source

For **ALL** that **we need**

in order to TO DO

All that He has called us TO DO

in <u>Every Circumstance</u> – In <u>Every Situation</u> no matter how <u>Overwhelming</u> it <u>looks</u>

& - to WHAT EXTENT is Jesus the SOURCE?

Mark 6:42-44 says (NLT)

42 They (the people) all ate as much as they wanted,

43 and afterward, the disciples (who were still working) picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish.

44 A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed.

Jesus Became the SOURCE

For ALL that the Disciples Needed

In order for them TO DO

ALL that He Called them TO DO

HOW?? - - HOW can WE BEGIN LIVING this Way with Jesus

FIRST OF ALL

You have to - Throw Out - ALL Your OWN LOGIC

Because Your THINKING - Is STINKING

No Matter HOW you FEEL

Keep <u>Serving Jesus</u>

Keep **Obeying Jesus**

Keep your EYES Firmly Fixed - on Jesus

WALK CLOSER - With Him
ABIDE DEEPER - In Him
CLING MORE TIGHTLY - To Him

& then - <u>WATCH</u> what Jesus <u>WILL DO</u> <u>In Your - Seemingly Hopeless Situation</u>

If you are a Christ-Follower TODAY

Jesus Is The Source

For **ALL** that **you need**

in order to DO

All that He has called you TO DO

In Order to Start LIVING
Like you Truly Believe That

Keep <u>Serving</u> Keep <u>Obeying</u>

Keep your EYES Firmly Fixed - on Jesus

WALK CLOSER - With Him

ABIDE DEEPER - In Him

CLING MORE TIGHTLY - To Him

& <u>WATCH</u> Jesus <u>BECOME</u>
THE SOURCE For <u>ALL</u> that <u>you NEED</u>

in order to DO

All that He has called you TO DO

Let's Pray