

## **Mark 6:30-56 “Blessed and Broken”**

As we begin this evening I want to just remind you that last week in our study of the first 29 verses of chapter 6 the Lord after being rejected in His hometown of Nazareth for a second time then turned to His disciples and He told them that they were going to be going out 2 x 2.

As He sent them out He told them they were allowed to take a staff and some sandals but they were not to take a bag, bread or copper in their money belts and that they were not to take extra clothing with them.

As they went they were to stay in whatever home they found available to them and not look for an upgrade as they undoubtedly became more popular. If you remember they were also given authority over demons and we were told they healed those they anointed with oil.

The Lord also let them know that if they went to a city and they were rejected that they were to shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against them and that those places would be judged more harshly than Sodom and Gomorrah...and really the reason for that is because they as the Jewish people had a much greater testimony of who God was...It's like the old saying that says with great knowledge comes great responsibility.

Then we kind of had like a little parenthetical narrative that let us know what had happened to John the Baptist as he was beheaded for standing on the truth even against those in great authority.

As you and I stand for the truth of Jesus Christ in this world we should expect that what Paul the apostle said to Timothy his son in the faith will come to pass if you listen to what he said to Timothy in 2 Timothy

3:12 which says <sup>12</sup>Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. Simply said the world will hate us as we live for truth as we submit to Jesus as we look to represent Him to the world around us. If they persecuted our Lord and they most certainly did they will persecute us also.

So now as we continue on here today we are back to the 12 disciples who had gone out and notice right away that they are called by a different title if you look at verses 30-32 which say <sup>30</sup>Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. <sup>31</sup>And He said to them, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. <sup>32</sup>So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.

Notice that now they are called apostles and we kind of get this idea in our heads that apostles are like these spiritual giants...The word apostle though simply means “One who is sent” and if you look at the disciples yes they were certainly those that were sent out with a specific message and a specific empowerment of God for what was before them.

I do want to say that these apostles that are here before us in the text did have a special place in the kingdom of God. They were called to lead the early church and they were the ones the church was really initially built upon. Some of them were even empowered to write scripture as the Holy Spirit led them through life.

Today the need for an apostle in the same sense as the 12 no longer exists for the scriptures have been written and concluded. There is no

further revelation of God that is needed. There is a false movement that is called the New Apostolic Reformation and I do think we should be aware of their thoughts and ideas.

To briefly define this movement they emphasize experience over Scripture, mysticism over doctrine, and modern-day “apostles” over the plain text of the Bible. They especially focus on the role and power of spiritual leaders and miracle workers, they do accept “NEW” revelations from God and over emphasize a pursuit of cultural and political control in society also known as Dominionism.

In particular I want you to be aware of this because right here in our own Kansas City area there is a very popular ministry that is strongly tied to this movement...I’m sure you have all heard of the International House Of Prayer and an individual named Mike Bickle...beware that this ministry is riddled with false doctrine and has led many astray not to mention the spiritual abuse that has come out recently.

I know that may seem like a little tangent but I think it’s important to recognize that these 12 minus Judas Iscariot of course had a special calling in their lives in that really the foundation of the church was really laid upon them and established through them.

So the 12 come to Jesus and they are stoked, they are excited, they are amazed and they are relaying to Jesus all they had done and accomplished.

Can you imagine the joy of Jesus that His friends and those closest to Him are now back and they are just so excited at all the ministry they have been involved with? I bet Jesus was just thrilled. At the same time I believe there were lessons the disciples needed to learn and

just for an example of this listen to what happened another time that Jesus sent out some disciples...This time it was when He sent out 70 but listen to what happened in Luke 10:17-20 which says this

**17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”**

**18 And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”** This is a different situation and setting

but I share that to just show us that the disciples were a long way from what they would one day be in their service of Jesus.

The disciples needed discipling and the Lord knew this and so then notice the Lord tells them that they need to come aside by themselves to a deserted place and rest for a while...and the reason for this was that things were so busy that they couldn't even sit down to have a meal together.

So you can imagine as they returned all they wanted to do was to talk with Jesus, and they are probably exhausted and they are overwhelmed with all the people that are constantly with them and around them and then to have Jesus say let's head out to a place that no one else is would have been a blessing I think.

Look with me at verse 33 which says **33 But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him.** Can you imagine this situation? The much needed break the disciples

needed is now not going to happen. I can imagine the disciples saying “Not again Lord, we want them to go away, we need to rest, we need the break Lord, we just wanted to talk with you”

I have to say that sometimes as we serve Jesus we will probably find ourselves in these kinds of situations where we feel overwhelmed with all that is happening around us. We may think to ourselves that we are even entering a time of rest and the Lord says “I have other plans for you, other opportunities for you, I have more lessons for you.” And that can be a hard thing can’t it?

Some of you know exactly what I’m talking about as the trials and troubles you are facing seem never ending and yet I would simply say to you today and to me today that God’s grace is always sufficient. I have to remind you again of what we learn over in 1 Peter 5:10-11 which says <sup>0</sup> **But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. <sup>11</sup> To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

So you can imagine the disciples as they are seeing the multitudes running on the shore line and arriving before them and you wonder what is going through the disciples minds...and then if you look at verse 34 we get to see what Jesus thought.

It says <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.** Jesus was moved with compassion and to define compassion it can mean to have a deep response to the sufferings of

others and carrying a willingness to support those you come in contact with.

And Jesus we are told was moved with compassion as he looked at this large multitude that came. Jesus knew they were hurting that they were suffering, that they were like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus knew that those in spiritual leadership over them were poor leaders, that they looked to fleece the flock, that they pressed heavy burdens on the people that they even robbed the people to enrich themselves and so the Lord knew they had a great spiritual need in their lives for someone to truly love them and point them in the right direction.

Now I'm not sure if you know this or not but sheep that have no shepherd aren't going to last all that long. Sheep can quickly find themselves in all kinds of problems if a shepherd isn't keeping an eye on them. They can eat poisonous foods, they can wander and get lost quite quickly...one of my favorite videos about a sheep is one that has a sheep that has somehow gotten himself stuck in a trench that runs several hundred feet almost like a large crack in the earth and that poor sheep is head down in the trench and he can't even move...and then the shepherd or whoever it is that finds the animal comes along and they pull and yank that sheep out of the ground and that sheep oh man it's so happy you can tell and it hops and leaps around and two seconds later it just falls right back into the same trench becoming stuck once again.

You know I think that's how you and I are as sheep. We need a shepherd in our lives, we need Jesus to watch over us and minister to us...and these people as they came out were alone, they were without



leadership, they were lost and so Jesus was just moved with compassion for them.

Now let's see what happens here if you look at verses 35-36 which say **<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."**

I think practically the disciples are just looking around and they are thinking that there is a problem in that they are in a deserted place with nothing around and the people are surely getting hungry at this point and so they come to Jesus and point out the physical problem that lies before them and they actually come up with a solution and give Jesus advice as well saying that the people should be sent away so they can get something to eat.

I have a question...one I've asked before but how many times have you and I offered up council to the Lord thinking we know something He doesn't or that we have something to say about what is happening around us? I know I have and I've quickly realized I simply don't see things like He does.

Look at the response of Jesus in verse 37 which says **<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?"**

I wonder if Jesus just had that smile on His face after He asked this and just to bring a little context into this we have the same account over in the Gospel of John 6:4-6 which says **<sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, a**

feast of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus lifted up *His* eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” <sup>6</sup> But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. So really this was a test that Jesus was placing before His disciples and of course when Jesus tests us there is always something for us to learn and glean from Him.

From John’s gospel we know that Philip was the one that responded asking if they should take 200 denarii which would have been about a half a year’s wage or a little more to go and get the food that was needed.

So Jesus presents a problem to the disciples and what do we see the disciples doing? They try and figure it out from their own resources how it is they are going to accomplish what is placed before them. Isn’t that what we do all the time? We look at the problem and we try to solve it and we often forget that our Lord has resources that go beyond this world. That He can supernaturally provide if He so desires. We forget that where God guides He always provides.

And so they respond to the Lord with their own wisdom and understanding and as they do so they simply say “Lord that’s impossible.” I wonder how many times we say those very words to Jesus in life whether it’s a trial we are facing and feeling like we’ll never have freedom or it’s a request the Lord has for us that we might serve Him.

Look at verse 38 which says <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.”

So to complicate matters to drive home the point the Lord actually has them take inventory of what they do have and so you can imagine the disciples going from person to person and group to group asking if they have any food they can share and then you have a lad who makes his food available being just 5 pieces of bread and 2 fish and just understand this wasn't like giant salmon and huge loaves of bread...these were little barley loaves or biscuits and small dried sardines.

So now the disciples are probably really sweating thinking where is all this food going to come from, how are we supposed to take care of these people and to top that off all they wanted was some time with Jesus alone.

Look at verses 39-44 which say <sup>39</sup>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. <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. <sup>42</sup>So they all ate and were filled. <sup>43</sup>And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. <sup>44</sup>Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.

The disciples tried to solve the problem, they tried to work at it from a natural viewpoint and then the Lord steps in and takes matters into His own hands. I can imagine Jesus commanding the people in this situation leading without fear and he makes the people sit down in groups on the green grass and they do so in hundreds and fifties and

the idea when it says they sat in ranks is actually that they were lined up like a plot of land that has crops growing on it so I think they were in nice neat little groups.

And then the Lord took that little amount that the disciples had and He blessed it and broke it and then He gave it to the disciples who in turn began to pass it out from person to person...so you can imagine Jesus taking some bread and giving it out and then supernaturally there was more bread and fish in His hands...The disciples would come to Jesus and receive what He had to give and then distribute it as all had need.

I think there are some practical lessons here in this and the first thing I think we can learn is that when we bring the little that we have to Jesus that He can take, multiply it and use it for His glory. I have found this true of my own life...I don't have much to offer anyone, I don't have enough resources, I can't accomplish the things that are before me and yet the Lord somehow manages to provide all that's needed. Certainly what we find in 2 Corinthians 9:8 is true which says <sup>8</sup>**And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.**

We have other Biblical examples of those that brought what little they had to the Lord and the Lord then using them mightily...We might think of David...what did he have available in his battle against Goliath? A sling and 5 smooth stones...what about Moses when he went before Pharaoh? He took only a staff and a relative with him.

We must learn that Jesus can do the incredible as we simply submit to His leadership in our lives. And that's a hard lesson to learn one that I

ask the Lord even now to teach me to follow Him by faith and not by sight. My sight, my understanding is often going to fall short...but His grace is more than sufficient. If Jesus can use just 12 men to turn the world upside down then He can use you and I as well as we submit to His leadership in our lives.

I do have to say that if you want to be used by the Lord that there will often be a breaking in your life as the Lord takes you, breaks you and then distributes ministry into the lives of others through your brokenness.

And then notice that as the people ate they were filled and I want you to think Thanksgiving filled kind of full here I mean they were just gluttoned and fully satisfied and certainly when Jesus does a work we'll find we are satisfied in Him...and we learn there were 5,000 men that were present and that does not include the women and kids.

You and I need to learn that when we have things before us whether small or big that our first and only response should be Jesus will you lead me and help me and strengthen me.

Well the lessons were not over if you look at verse 45 which says **45 Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away.** Once again we see Jesus having the disciples get in the boat and going before Him to the other side...What do you think the disciples thought? I can imagine they might say "Yeah, no thanks Lord," after what happened the last time they were in the boat.

But look when the Lord charges you to do something you don't get a choice in the matter so the Lord is really ordering them to get in and to

get moving...and the Lord told them to go to the city of Bethsaida and that He would be along before too long.

In the meantime once the disciples were gone we are told Jesus dismissed the crowd and I want to share something with you that we learn over in John's gospel again in John 6:14-15 and this was just after the feeding of the 5,000 but listen to what happened it says <sup>4</sup>**Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."**

<sup>5</sup>**Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.**

So the people planned to make Jesus king and really the whole reason behind this desire was because Jesus had fed them, because they were filled...and so you can imagine things were getting a little wild as all this unfolded and the people are looking to push Jesus forward as their king and the Lord turned to the disciples and made them leave and then we don't have recorded what He said or how Jesus dismissed the crowd but He certainly does.

And then look at what Jesus did in verse 46 which says <sup>46</sup>**And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.** Now I love this because if Jesus as He was here on earth spent time in prayer it just reminds me that I have a huge necessity in my life to be in prayer myself.

Can you imagine how those prayer times were between Jesus and the Father? I think at times it was tough for Jesus to find the time in His life to pray. Ministry and life can become so busy sometimes that

there is a tendency for prayer to get pushed out of our lives...That should simply never be and I will say there are times that I have to be very purposeful about finding times of prayer and you know sometimes you have to dismiss some things from your life to focus on what's most important.

Verses 47-48 say <sup>47</sup> **Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land.** <sup>48</sup> **Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by.** We are told that at this point in the night it is the fourth watch and that would have been between 3 AM and 6 AM and the boat was actually in the middle of the sea. In John 6 again we are told that the sea had risen because there was a great wind that was blowing so we can ascertain that again the disciples are in a storm of sorts, that the waters are turbulent and it's dark out so they couldn't see all that well. We also learn that the disciples had only gone about 3-4 miles once again in the Gospel of John and notice that here in Mark we are told that at this point they are straining as they row for the wind was against them.

Now I'm not an experienced boater but I do know if the winds are against you that you are in big trouble and I just wonder if these guys were just determined to get to the other side because Jesus had sent them before Him. And so I can just imagine they were thinking we have to get this done, we must accomplish this, we don't want to let Jesus down.

And then you have Jesus on the mountain praying all night, and we are told here that He could see them out on the water and I kind of think

this was a supernatural seeing for the boat would have been very small even if the moonlight was out it would have been tough to see 3-4 miles away.

The first time the disciples were out on the water in the storm Jesus was right there with them, now this time Jesus isn't present in the boat but I think the lesson the disciples are going to learn is that even if Jesus isn't physically present He sure does know the things that we go through.

Jesus is not removed from the trials we find ourselves in, it's not like He doesn't know what's happening in us and around us. Jesus sees all things and He knows all things just like He could see the disciples in the middle of the night 3-4 miles away on the water.

We ought not forget that Jesus is all seeing and knowing. He saw Nathanael one of the disciples when he was sitting under a fig tree, He saw Peter denying Him three times before it happened, He saw and knew Judas would betray Him, He saw that people were trying to take Him and make Him king by force.

**And Jesus sees you and I as well.** You know sometimes we might feel like the disciples like we are desperately rowing and trying to keep up with the world around us and we may feel like we are going nowhere but we must know and learn that Jesus sees the pains and difficulties that we are passing through and He will help us by supernatural means if necessary as we will see.

**And then let's not miss one of the greatest details here** before us in that we are told that Jesus just decided to take a stroll on the water...This is turbulent water and there is wind blowing and Jesus is



just strolling along. We ought to just remember there is nothing Jesus can't do. This is the man that healed the leper, that healed the paralytic, that stopped the storm, that delivered the man possessed with demons, that rose the little girl up from the dead, the One that fed the 5,000 and now here He is walking on the water.

Look at verses 49-51 which say <sup>49</sup> And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; <sup>50</sup> for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>51</sup> Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. I honestly can't blame the disciples here. I mean they are exhausted at this point and I am right there with them that I don't think I would ever expect someone to walk on the water and so yes I think I would think it was the evil spirit of the sea of Galilee or that I was hallucinating or that I was going to die as I saw this.

These men were troubled we are told and that word can be defined as to strike one's spirit with fear and dread, to render someone anxious or distressed or to perplex the mind of one by bringing doubts...In other words they were out of their mind afraid as they saw this so-called ghost.

And then the Lord looked at them and simply said "Hey guys, it's me, be of good cheer, don't be afraid." I mean that's just crazy right can you imagine that? And then Jesus is right there next to them getting into the boat.

Now what we don't have here and it's kind of interesting because it is thought that Mark as he wrote his Gospel was getting his information first hand from Peter the apostle and over in Matthew's gospel we learn that Peter when he saw the Lord and knew it was Him said "Lord if that's you have me come out to you on the water" and then we see Peter walking on the water for a moment or two before he focused on the waves rather than the Lord and started sinking.

And we are told here that when Jesus got into the boat that the waves ceased. How cool would that have been to once again see that in Jesus is great power, to know that when He calls us to do something that He will be with us, that even if His physical presence is not with us that He sees us and knows what we are passing through.

I too would be greatly amazed as we see here with the disciples. Isn't it amazing that Jesus is on our side? That we get to walk and talk with Him? That we get to see His great work through us and in us? I'm not so sure how anyone makes it through life without Him helping them. I think a great many people are hurting in life and they are straining as they try and work their way through the storms of life and yet when Jesus enters the scene there is a calm that takes place a peace that goes beyond understanding, a stillness in the hearts of men and women as He steps into the situations of our lives.

May we be quick to invite Jesus into the boat, may we remember His great power and authority, may we recognize His work in our hearts and may we submit to His plans for us.

Look at verse 52 which says <sup>52</sup> **For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.** The disciples were a lot like you and I. I believe you and I must learn over and over in our

lives about the greatness and the authority and the power of Jesus to change and save a life. The disciples had missed out on the lesson of the loaves, they had forgotten about the miraculous work of Jesus and because of that their hearts were hard.

Maybe they thought they knew Jesus but they hadn't truly comprehended who He was.

Look at verses 53-56 which say <sup>53</sup> When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup> And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, <sup>55</sup> ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was. <sup>56</sup> Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.

I simply cannot imagine how incredibly stressful this must have been not only for the Lord but for everyone involved. Truly the people the Lord ministered to were like sheep without a shepherd. They desperately needed His healing touch in their lives, they knew if people could just touch the edge of his clothing that they would be healed and indeed anyone that reached out was made whole.

I wonder if today any of us here need to learn the lesson of the feeding of the 5,000 or the lesson of the Lord walking on water, or the simple lesson that reaching out and touching Jesus brings about a great healing.

Everywhere Jesus went miraculous things took place. Lives were changed when people came into contact with Jesus. I have to tell you today that the greatest need you and I have is to be healed and forgiven of our sins and again only Jesus can do that.

People seek out all kinds of ways to be right with God from visiting the priest down the road at the Catholic church, to trying to allow their good to outweigh their bad, to attending church religiously...and yet there is only one thing that truly does any good in our lives and it is reaching out and touching Jesus by faith. As you and I realize our greatest need which is to be forgiven of our sin and we recognize what Jesus did for us on the cross and we come to Him in faith we find that He indeed rescues us, feeds us spiritually, calms the raging sea of our hearts and ministers to us.

Have you called out to Jesus today? Have you asked for His forgiveness? Have you asked Him to come into your heart to forgive you? If you haven't...the Bible says today is the day of salvation and right here tonight you can simply confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior and put your trust in Him and the Bible says when you believe you shall be saved and so if you are here today and you know you need the great touch of Jesus in your life I just encourage you to come forward after the service and I would just love to talk with you about following and knowing Jesus.

Let's pray and we'll worship

## **Mark 6:30-56 “Blessed And Broken”**

### **Cross References**

#### **Introduction**

2 Timothy 3:12

#### **Verses 30-32**

Luke 10:17-20

#### **Verse 33a**

1 Peter 5:10-11

#### **Verse 37**

John 6:4-6

#### **Verses 39-44**

2 Corinthians 9:8

#### **Verse 45**

John 6:14-15