

The Shepherd Who Provides

Mark 6:30-56

Pray

Last time we studied the book of Mark we saw how Jesus' ministry was growing in popularity

- And how he sent out his 12 disciples two by two into ministry teams
- that would go throughout the cities of Galilee
 - so that people could hear the word not just from Jesus himself.
 - but from the disciples as well.
- And the disciples enjoyed tremendous success as they went out & did ministry.
 - They preached to people. They taught them the word of God.
 - They brought people to repentance. They healed the sick.
 - There were demons cast out of people.
 - It was a wonderful time of ministry.

And now as we pick it up in verse 30 of Mark chapter 6,

- the disciples come back from that trip.

the first section we will look at deals with **resting in the Lord**

- in verses 30 through 34

and the second section deals with **relying on the Lord**

³⁰ Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught.

Here we see how the Disciple came back to Jesus and regrouped after their missions trip

- They Shared with Jesus all the amazing stories of what had happened

This must have been a lively meeting, "Jesus, it was awesome!

- We preached the Gospel. Somebody got healed!"

James surely would have said, "I put oil on somebody and it worked!"

- I'm gonna make a mental note of that & write that down someday."
 - It was A wonderful recapping field report of the success of their mission.

so they gathered to Jesus & returned to the Lord

- and I believe resting in the Lord involves returning to the Lord

and one problem we often face in our own lives we think that finding rest

- involves finding the right place if I can just get to that tropical island for two weeks but true rest comes from Jesus

in **Matthew 11:28** Jesus said **come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest take my yoke upon you and learn of me for my yoke is easy my burden is light and you will find rest for your soul**

- there's the key = our rest is not based on our circumstances
 - our rest is based on Jesus Christ = he is our rest

³¹ 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. ³² So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.

Jesus and his boys, were busy in ministry,

- so much so that they had no **time to eat!** (Like wedding)

And so Jesus looked at his boys and said let's get some rest

- This is a priority we see in the life of Jesus as He made it a priority to get away a lot
 - and have quiet time by himself,

Remember in school you had the wide ruled paper you were suppose to write

- and leave the margins, if you write from edge to edge the things a mess,
 - you have to have some room for the paper to breath,

we to in our lives, we shouldn't write line to line,

- we don't need to be burning the candle at both ends, its not good,
 - we should live with room to breath a little bit.

Jesus had this habit of recuperating & having quiet time by himself

- spending time with the father praying and if He did,
 - how much more do we need to!

I've heard it said,

"If you don't come apart with Jesus to rest you will just come apart at the seams"

- the truth is we shouldn't plan something for every waking second of our day.
 - everybody needs to rest even Jesus.

and this is increasingly difficult in a culture of workaholics,

- it is important for us to set a good pace in life to live a life with margin.

I want to be serving Jesus for the long haul and not sprint out the gate & burn out

- **In ministry there is a process of Being filled by God & poured out**

Ex. Of a car getting filled up with gas & getting maintenance

- If you don't take time to fill up spiritually you will burn out!

How do we get filled up spiritually?

- We get alone with Jesus
- Talk to Him through prayer
- Read our Bibles
- We take naps in Jesus Name!

Jesus was a very hardworking man.

- He knew the value of hard work better than anybody.
 - In **John 9:4** he said, "I must work the works of him who sent me while it is day. The night is coming when no one could work."
- There was an urgency in Jesus's heart about doing the work of God.
 - **And at the same time, Jesus really knew the value of rest.**

One of the Ten Commandments

- is a commandment to rest **you shall observe the sabbath day**
 - you should take a break & relax

God knows human nature that we are prone to over work

car manuals say *regular maintenance is essential*

• *to obtaining the highest level of performance safety and reliability from your vehicle following the booklet recommendations will give you maximum reliability peace of mind*

- so is this booklet the Bible, this is your owner's manual follow it
 - because it's designed to make sure your life has proper maintenance
 - and give you peace of mind for many years to come

Solomon the third king of Israel in **Ecclesiastes 3:1**, he says **to everything there's a season there's a time to do this a time to do that** and the same is true for us

- while it is important that we serve the Lord
it's equally important we spend time with the Lord

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.

so here's Jesus and his disciples getting in a boat to take off to get away from the people

- and the people see him leaving to the other side of the Galilee
 - and they start running all the way around in order to meet him
 - when he arrives

³⁴ 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.

Ex. Imagine getting in a boat

- And people start running down the coast
- Other people see a group of people running "What's going on?"
- They say Jesus is in the boat & He is going to the other side
- More & More people join the group

By the time they get to the other side there was over 5,000 people

- Waiting for them!

They are confronted by this huge need,

- a multitude of hungry people wanting Jesus attention
 - so their plan of rest got a wrench through into it

but that is exactly how life is and that is why it is so important

- that we do plan for rest because these things do pop up
 - illness, the car wont start, you loose your job, death of a loved 1,
 - storms & interruptions come unexpectedly

but if we are living with margin

- we will be more equipped to deal with these things.
 - We will be more flexible if we are not wound so tight
 - to not pop by the things that pop up,

Jesus reaction to the ruining of his vacation was **compassion for the people!**

- But The disciples response to the people is not the same as Jesus.

They tell Jesus to **send them away** in vs. 36

- I understand there reaction but Jesus is going to teach them to be flexible
 - Interruptions can come up unexpected
 - And they can be from the lord.
- But We must remember also there has to be moderation,
 - you cant always be responding to the urgent
 - or you will surely collapse.

Jesus was moved with compassion for them

- Compassion: is an emotion we feel in response to the suffering of others that motivates a desire to help

Ex. Friend in a wheel chair “Camp: Game room”

no one was more compassionate than Christ

Jesus saw them as sheep without a shepherd

- Jesus had a Shepherds heart

Jesus began to teach them

- The most important job of a shepherd is feeding the sheep the truth of Gods Word

Matthew 4:4 Jesus Said “It is written, Man should not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

When you’re fed the Word of God you become

- Strong & Healthy and Grow Spiritually

The most compassionate thing you can do for a human being

- is tell them the truth on how to get to heaven.

sheep without a Shepherd die

in **John 10:11** Jesus is called **the Good Shepherd**

in **Hebrews 13:20** he’s called **the Great Shepherd**

in **1 Peter 5:4** he's called **the chief shepherd**

Jesus put the needs of the people above his own

- you know Paul talks about this by the way in

Philippians 2:3 he **said let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit but in lowliness of mine let us esteem others more highly than ourselves let us not**

only look out for our own interest but for the interest of others

- and in **Philippians 2:5** he said **let this mind be in you which is in Christ Jesus our lord**
 - that's the heart of Christ putting others first

now we will see the second section involves **relying on the Lord**

- and of course it's Illustrated with a very familiar story
 - The Feeding of the five thousand

now the feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle that it is found in all four gospels

³⁵ 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. ³⁶ Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat."

the disciples turned to Jesus and said it's late we got to send these people home

- Jesus has been teaching them all day & the People were getting hungry

Now both Jesus and the disciples saw the same problem. Here's a big needy multitude.

- They're hungry and there's no place for them to buy food.
 - The disciples wanted to fix the problem.

And so their solution to fix the problem was to say, "Get out of here. go leave.

- But Jesus had a completely different kind of solution

Isn't it a beautiful thing to consider that God can provide out of resources

- that we know nothing about?

Sometimes we limit God and we forget that he has resources that we know nothing about.

We need to trust Him & Be at peace Even when we cant figure out how He will provide

It never entered the disciples mind that

- Jesus might do a miracle
 - By providing food

³⁷ 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?" ³⁸ 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."

The disciples saw the needs of the multitude & thought the solution was the money,

- often People think the key is money.

But The key is not money, the key Is the master. = THE MASTER KEY JESUS!

Faced with this difficult situation the disciples only see the problem, the dead end,

- the impossibilities,

And they forgot how God fed the children of Israel in the wilderness,

- and how there was time after time where God had miraculously provided

Johnathan came to this conclusion in **1 Samuel 14:6** when him and his armourbearer

- went up against the philistines by themselves and he said to his armour bearer,
 - nothing restrains the lord from saving by many or by few,

In Johns gospel Andrew brought the young man to Jesus with 5 loaves & 2 fish

I love this about Andrew, every time he shows up he is bringing someone to Jesus.

- he first introduced Peter his brother to Jesus,
- here he brings this young boy to Jesus,
- And the next time we see him he brings some gentiles to Jesus,
- who is the last person you brought to Jesus or invited to Church?
 - We should actively be seeking opportunities to lead people to Jesus like Andrew,
- Andrew says Jesus I found this guy in the midst of the crowd, he's got 5 loaves and 2 fish.

If you take a little and put it in the hands of Jesus, a little can become a lot.

- Jesus loves to use little things. David was a little boy with a little sling shot, but He was in Gods hands and he took on a giant of a man.
 - the little staff Moses had in his hand God used powerfully in Egypt,
- Jesus loves to use little things like you and me,
- we might not have much to offer, maybe we kinda loaf around, And are fishy at times, but the Lord says in my hands I can use you.

food was a problem back then as there was no fast food

- they wouldn't invent in n out for another 2,000 years
 - they're sort of stuck wherever they are

now this is a big crowd Matthew says there were 5,000 men besides women and children

- so there could have been could have been 10-20,000 people
- this story shows us God is concerned with physical needs

1 Peter 5:7 casting all our cares on Him because he cares for us

David said in Psalm 37:25 I've never seen the righteous forsaken nor his descendants begging bread God cares & takes care of his children

In Matthew 6:26 Jesus pointed to the Birds & said Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

the disciples thought it's impossible for us to feed these people

Mark 10:27 says with man it's impossible but With God all things are possible

- because our God is big

it reminds me of that song we learned in Sunday school

- my god is so big so strong and so mighty there's nothing that my God can't do

³⁹ Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass.

⁴⁰ So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² So they all ate and were filled. ⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.

Jesus provides enough food for everyone as much as they wanted!

- so they don't just have a little, but plenty!

This was a miracle of multiplication.

- It is similar to the time when God fed the people manna in the wilderness and Moses said God will provide for you,
- Jesus and his disciples gave out All you can eat Fish Tacos from one boys lunchable

warren weirsbe notes they weren't called to be manufacturs but distributors

- and as we minister we don't have to come up what we are going to give to people, we just take what Jesus puts in our hands and hand it to people who need it

God has given us His Word To share with others!

- His plan is to feed the world through us!

Jesus here demonstrated the giving character of god, Jesus loves to give

- he gave an all you can eat lunch to over 10,000 people

that is the same character god wants to build in each one of us

Proverbs 11:24-25 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty.25 The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

- God desires us to have this attitude of being a giver

the amazing thing is it says that they were all filled

- that means they were stuffed = they were gluttoned
 - it's like me on Thanksgiving when you're laying on the couch
 - and you think I can't eat another biscuit

do you need a miracle today? do you need the Lord to take your limited resources

- and multiply them to meet a great need
 - I would encourage you let him be your Source!
 - **he'll meet the need he is faithful**
 - he is Jehovah Gyra the God who provides

- I love what Jesus did before this miracle was performed.

In verse 41, it said that he looked up to heaven, blessed, and broke the loaves.

- You know what he did? He thanked God for the food. He said, "Thank you, Lord, for this."

oftentimes people will ask why do we pray before we eat?

- well because Jesus did, Jesus prayed over the meal

the Miracle happens in Jesus hands

- As He divided the loaves and fish

And as we put our lives in the Hands of Jesus!

- He can do great things through our lives
 - To touch the lives of many people!

God uses simple things to do great things!

- all he had was fish and chips & he fed & blessed a multitude

God wants to use us to bring the bread of life to a needy world

- God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things

1 Corinthians 1:27 God has chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise

Sometime we need to stop looking at our littleness and instead look at God's greatness

Paul said in **Philippians 4:19** my God shall provide all your need according to his riches & Glory

Proverbs 3:5-6 trust in the Lord with all of your heart lean not on your own understanding acknowledge Him in all your ways and he will direct your path

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. ⁴⁶ And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.

Jesus tells the disciples to get in the boat and go to the other side

- And I love how They obeyed Jesus

And Jesus went to the mountain to pray

- As He found strength in prayer!
 - That long day of ministry drove Jesus to pray, not from prayer!

Jesus is our example in everything

- If Jesus made it a priority to pray, we should too!

⁴⁷ Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ 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.

Here Jesus sees them struggling against the wind and waves in a storm!

Some people think that the Christian life is easy all the time!

- No way! Jesus sent them into a storm!

- There are amazing times & There are very difficult times As a Christian

In our lives we go through dark stormy times

- Sometimes we see some pretty big clouds forming in our lives
 - **And we ask God what do I do?**
- **I want to encourage you to keep doing the last thing that the Lord told you to do!**
 - **And that is what they did, you just keep on rowing those oars!**
 - staying the course, trust and obey,

Jesus said to those guys, go across the sea, that is the last instruction they got from Him,

- So they are just doing what they were told lastly to do rowing in the dark
 - **What has the Lord told you to do?**
 - **keep at it, stay with it** = even if it is looking dark & scary!

jesus saw them in the midst of this storm.

- **While they might of lost sight of Jesus, Jesus never lost sight of them.**
 - Sometimes we feel like we are all alone in the storm

I want to encourage you today that God sees us in the midst of the storm,

- he has full knowledge of what were going through

The bible says in **prov 15:3** **the eyes of the Lord are on everyone,**

Zechariah 4:10 **the eyes of the lord go to and fro through the whole earth.**

Job 31:4 **he sees everything I do and counts every step I take.**

Jesus sees exactly what we are dealing with and he sees what we are going through.

- He not only sees us, he is also with us, even in the midst of the storm

God said in **Hebrews 13:5** **I will never leave you, I will never forsake you,**

Jesus himself in **Matthew 28:20** said **lo I am with you always even to the end of the age.**

- That should bring great peace and comfort to all of our life's
 - knowing even in the midst of the storm, he knows about it. He sees us,
- he never takes his eyes off us, he is always with us, we are never alone.

Here is says Jesus came to them in the 4th watch of the night, which is 3am -6am

- so Jesus left them struggling rowing fighting this incredible violent storm
 - for 6-12 hours before he came to them! that is a long time!
 - I don't like that, I like the storms in my life to be brief,
 - 4 or 5 minutes that is good enough
 - I think I have learned my lesson,
 - we can turn off the wind machines and wave machines Jesus

But God's timing is perfect, now we might not like it or understand it or agree with it

- but God is going to deliver us from the storm in His time in His way
 - according to His perfect plan,

And God is going to leave us in the midst of this storm

- as long as he wants to accomplish His plan and purpose,
 - you say Why does he allow us to ride out these storms for so long?
 - b/c often times the reason first of all is to grow us and stretch us
 - and cause us to come to a place in our life
 - where we are turning to Him for help
 - & He will work it out for good!
- “Smooth Seas Don’t make Skillful Sailors”

God allows winds & storms in our lives to help us grow.

- opposition & problems can actually be beneficial if you let it grow your character,
 - you can either become bitter or better depending how you react.
 - You can grow stronger through difficulty & opposition can be helpful
 - The more the Egyptians oppressed the Israelites the stronger they got

A kite rises against the wind. A kite doesn't fly with the wind, a kite flies against the wind.

- And the stronger that wind is the higher the kite can go.
 - I have found in my own life, the greater the opposition
 - the more I cry out to Jesus & cling to Jesus and become like Jesus,
 - kites rise with the wind, they use the wind,
 - they use the opposition to soar even higher,

I think there is another reason God allows us to go through these storms,

- and that is so we can minister to others,

paul said in **2 corinthians 1:3** the god of all comfort and mercy comforts us in our times of tribulation so we in turn can comfort others,

- its so we can wrap our arms around people & say I know what your going through,
 - I know what your dealing with & God can help like He helped me

Shipwreck story guys hut burned down, ship showed up next day =

- your fire was a smoke signal

I love how Jesus did not stand on the shore line and shout instruction

- and tell them what to do, he goes out to them b/c he cares!
- He comes to you in your moment of desperation
 - and he goes out to where they are and intervenes,
 - that is the gospel, a God who intervenes,
 - a god who comes to earth to save us,

I don't know what your going through but I will tell you this, you may feel abandon right now,

- but your not, God is with you, this is the promise of Jesus

John 14:18 I will not abandon you, I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you.

- I want to encourage you to stop trying to row and do it all on your own power,
 - and let Jesus come to you today and let Him help you!

⁴⁹ And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; ⁵⁰ for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be^[1] of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

⁵¹ Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled.

⁵² For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened. ⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there.

⁵⁴ And when they came out of the boat, immediately ^[2]the people recognized Him,

⁵⁵ ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was.

⁵⁶ 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 love how the disciples called out to Jesus & invited Him into the ship,

- he didn't board there ship until he was invited to,

Jesus is a perfect gentleman. Who will not barg into your boat, he waits for us to invite him

- Lord I am in a storm. And I need you to come in
 - and they willingly received him in the ship

it says as soon as they received Jesus the wind stopped,

- the sea was calm, the waves were settled, as they received him,
 - There was calm and peace
 - and what a beautiful picture that paints for us.
 - Because as soon as we receive Jesus into our boat
 - He will give us that peace that Paul says in

Philippians 4:7 that passes all understanding, because Jesus is with us,

Do you want Jesus to save you? Then reach out and he will take care of you

- all he is waiting for is an invitation, Do you want to invite Jesus to be your Lord & savior?

SHARE THE GOSPEL

PRAY