

## Worship Notes for October 11, 2020 - Orrville Trinity UMC

### “The Generous Seed Planter” Series

#### WEEK #2: “You Give Them Something to Eat”

#### **This Week’s Scripture Passage: Mark 6:30-44 (CEB)**

*30 The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. 31 Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, “Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while.” 32 They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.*

*33 Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. 34 When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.*

*35 Late in the day, his disciples came to him and said, “This is an isolated place, and it’s already late in the day. 36 Send them away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy something to eat for themselves.”*

*37 He replied, “You give them something to eat.”*

*But they said to him, “Should we go off and buy bread worth almost eight months’ pay<sup>[a]</sup> and give it to them to eat?”*

*38 He said to them, “How much bread do you have? Take a look.”*

*After checking, they said, “Five loaves of bread and two fish.”*

*39 He directed the disciples to seat all the people in groups as though they were having a banquet on the green grass. 40 They sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. 41 He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke the loaves into pieces, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. 42 Everyone ate until they were full. 43 They filled twelve baskets with the leftover pieces of bread and fish. 44 About five thousand had eaten.*

#### **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION**

- Read Mark 6:7-13. Try to imagine yourself in the shoes of one of the disciples who had just come back from the successful first-time ministry of casting out demons, healing the sick, and inviting people to transform the hearts and lives. What would you be feeling as you returned to Jesus, the one who had sent you and the other disciples out? There could be a wide range of emotions, everything from elation to weariness.

- Jesus invited the disciples to engage in a spiritual practice that he, himself, often took part in – that is, going off to a secluded place to rest and be renewed. However, some people noticed there they were headed, and the word spread among the local towns and villages. By the time Jesus arrived a little later, there was a full-fledged crowd on hand who had gotten there first. What does that tell us about the “hunger” of the people who made up the crowd? What did they notice in the disciples who were following Jesus? What do you think they were seeking when they decided to show up that day? Do you think they had any idea of what they were about to experience together?
- Reread Mark 6:34 (see above). What does this one verse tell us about the character of Jesus? How does he feel about people who are “lost” like sheep without a shepherd?
- After Jesus has been teaching for a good long while, eventually the disciples remind him that the people will need to eat a meal. They propose a solution, but what solution does Jesus present to them (vs. 37-38)? If you were a disciple, would you have been surprised by what Jesus said to do?
- Reread verse 41. You may notice a pattern there that’s similar to what we hear Jesus doing at the Last Supper (read Mark 14:22-23). Consider the actions that Jesus took: he blessed, broke, and gave. What deeper meaning might those actions have?
- In his sermon, Pastor David made reference to “God’s math” which doesn’t quite make sense to us. After experiencing a story like this one that is full of abundance beyond what anyone expected, how would you describe “God’s math” to someone else?
- Unfortunately, this story ends before we find out what happened to the crowd of people. If you had to guess, what would you expect happened to the crowd who assembled that day to hear from Jesus, and who were all fed until they were full?
- If you had experienced a story like that, how would you describe it to someone else?
- One of the key lessons that Jesus teaches here is that we already have resources on hand that, when placed in Jesus’ hands, can bless people in unbelievable ways. Today, you’re invited to take stock of what you have. Jesus said to the disciples, “How much bread do you have? Take a look.” How often do we take a look – take inventory? What do you already have in terms of resources – tangible resources (money, food, home, etc.), skills/abilities, life experiences, personality, spiritual gifts, and so on – that could be used to bless other people? What would happen if you intentionally chose to place those things into Jesus’ hands? Why not pick one thing you identified and try it today.
- Close in prayer, thanking God for what you already have. Ask Him to soften your heart to have compassion for others the same way Jesus had compassion on that crowd.