



“How Many Loaves Do You Have?”
Mark 6:30-44

There are many things in our life we take for granted. We grab coffee on the way to work. Pick up a pizza on the way home. Have food delivered to our home. Very few people worry about where their next meal will come from, or even if it will come.

Key Verse. *“How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.” When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.” (Mark 6:35-38).*

As we have seen in Mark’s gospel, he keeps up a steady pace of events and teachings of Jesus to make his point. “This is Jesus, God’s Son. Pay attention to him.” The passage today comes on the heels of a tumultuous several days of ministry by Jesus in Mark 4 and 5. People have seen Jesus heal others and even raise a little girl to life. Mark also wants to highlight that following Jesus is costly.

Read *Mark 6:1-29*. Mark reminds us that following Jesus can cost us our reputation, and even our lives. What barriers did the disciples face, what barriers do you face in following Jesus? What encouraging things happened with them during this time?

Read *Mark 6:30,31*. What does Jesus do with the disciples after they come back from their mission trip? How often do I take the rest I need with Jesus when I am doing ministry?

The disciples find that their rest break is short. Jesus uses it as another teaching moment. Read *Mark 6:32-44*. What was the immediate need Jesus asked the disciples to address? How did they respond?

Scripture is clear. God has compassion on the poor and outcast. The word compassion means, “to have been moved from your inner being.” There are hundreds of verses outlining God’s concern for people.

Proverbs 3:27-28 and *Leviticus 19:34* are just two. How does God say I should respond to those in need? How may that be different than my response?

Notice in *Mark 6:35-38* Jesus makes the disciples take inventory of what they have to solve the problem of feeding 5,000 people. What resources of time, talents or treasure has God given to you? How could I use them for His kingdom?

Even after feeding 5,000, there were still leftovers. (*Mark 6:42,43*) You can’t outgive God. Where have you seen that at work in your life?

THIS WEEK:

- How often do I thank God for what He has given to me?
- How would God have me use what He has given to me to see His kingdom grow?