

## “Jesus Satisfies”

June 15, 2025  
Mark 6:30-44

### Introduction

Sheep without a Shepherd is NOT a good thing!

God promised to be a Shepherd for his people (Ezekiel 34:15, John 10:14)

### Jesus Understands Our Limitations (Mark 6:30-32):

*“The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.*

- First, and only time, *apostle* is used of the disciples in the gospel of Mark.
- Jesus calls the disciples, after they return from their mission, to come away with him for a period of rest.

### Jesus Sees Our Need (Mark 6:33-34):

*“Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things”*

- Jesus SEES the crowd, responds with COMPASSION and begins to teach them.
- Responding with compassion begins with seeing the need. Jesus responds to both the physical and spiritual needs, but first teaches.
- What “needs” might Jesus have seen that led him to have compassion out of which he began to teach them?

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### **Jesus Tests Our Faith (Mark 6:35-38):**

*“This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” But he answered 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 it to them to eat?” And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.”* hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see”

In John’s gospel account, we read that Jesus was “testing” the disciples.

What do you think it might mean that Jesus was “testing” them?

### **Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Satisfies (Mark 6:38-44):**

*Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.*

The question the disciples and the people were continually faced with was “Who is this Jesus of Nazareth”?

While the gospel of John focuses on Jesus as the *bread of life*, Mark portrays Jesus here as the **Good Shepherd who completely satisfies**.

God has fulfilled his promise to be the Shepherd of his people through Jesus (Ezekiel 34:15)

Jesus lays his own needs down here, and one day soon He will lay his down for the sheep (John 10:15)

### **Reflection Questions:**

What part of this passage are you drawn to today?

What questions might you still have regarding this account of the Jesus feeding the five thousand?

How have you personally experienced that “Jesus satisfies”?

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