



READ MARK 6:30-44

Pursue

- Mark 6:34 states, “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 is moved in compassion for the crowds desperate for His ministry. He sees them as sheep without a shepherd. What do you think sheep without a shepherd looks like? (How are they? What do they have? What do they not have?)
 - How do you think we, as his followers, can grow in compassion for the lost?
- Jesus is the good shepherd of His people. In your group, discuss how Jesus is a good shepherd. You can begin with things addressed in the sermon. Would you add anything?
 - What impact does thinking of Jesus as the shepherd of his people have on your relationship with Him?
- Moved in compassion, Jesus feeds the people, but this feeding is not physical. Instead, he feeds their greater hunger and need by teaching the crowds. This shows that their greatest need can only be satisfied in knowledge of and relationship with Jesus.
 - In our culture today, how do we try to satisfy this greater desire outside of Christ?
- Jesus tasks his (exhausted) disciples to feed the crowds of people around him with very few items. Then, Jesus prays, blesses, and multiplies the little they have to feed the crowd in abundance, so much so that each disciple has a basket of leftovers.
 - How does seeing the provision and abundance of Jesus through the disciples in this story encourage you in your relationship with Him and your ministry to others in your life?

Practice

- **Praying Through Scripture** - Read & pray through Psalm 23 as a group. Assign each verse to a person in your group. Have them read the verse and then offer a short prayer in light of it. If you have time, consider discussing the questions below for application & encouragement:
 - Discuss how this Psalm and this story in Mark intersect.
 - Share a time recently when you experienced the compassionate shepherding of Jesus.
 - Is there a circumstance you are in today that you are finding difficult to see the compassion and good shepherding of Jesus? Pray for one another.

Proclaim

- In our story today, Jesus is moved by compassion for the crowd, who is like a sheep without a shepherd. He meets their spiritual hunger with the gospel and their physical hunger with bread.
 - Option 1 - Have group members pray for one person in their lives whom they want to know Jesus as the good shepherd of Psalm 23.
 - Option 2 - As a group, discuss how you can serve the community around you and meet a need (physical or spiritual). (Ex: Volunteering with a local organization as a group, a neighbor in need, a friend or family member in need, etc.) What is one step you can take as a group to meet this need with compassionate care?