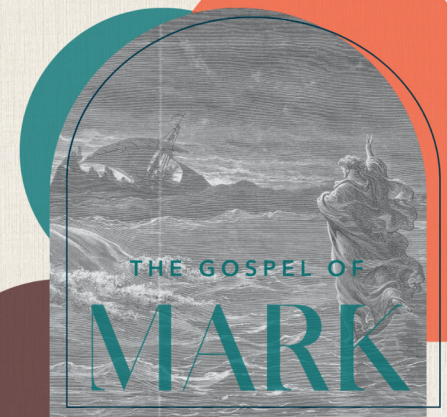


October 22, 2023

A HAPPY MEAL IN HIS HANDS

Pastor Roger Poupart // Mark 6:30-44



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



30 The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught. 31 And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.) 32 They went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves.

33 The people saw them going, and many recognized them and ran there together on foot from all the cities, and got there ahead of them. 34 When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things. 35 When it was already quite late, His disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and it is already quite late; 36 send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." 37 But He answered them, "You give them something to eat!" And they said to Him, "Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them something to eat?" 38 And He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go look!" And when they found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." 39 And He commanded them all to sit down by groups on the green grass. 40 They sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. 41 And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food and broke the loaves and He kept giving them to the disciples to set before them; and He divided up the two fish among them all. 42 They all ate and were satisfied, 43 and they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces, and also of the fish. 44 There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.



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REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?

- What's a season or moment in life when you felt loved by someone serving you?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

GROW IN THE WORD

01. The disciples returned from the ministry Jesus sent them out to complete and reported to Jesus all they had done. In reply, Jesus invited them to come away with him to a private place to rest. They all got on a boat to find a remote place (v. 30-32).

- What stands out to you about Jesus' reply to the disciples after they reported about their ministry?

GROW IN THE WORD

- Why did Jesus want to lead the disciples specifically to a lonely or isolated place? Consider what he might have wanted them to learn and see Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; Matthew 14:23.

- How would you describe a common American view of self-reliance? In what ways do you rely on your own abilities or gifts rather than on God?

02. A large crowd saw Jesus and his disciples and met them on the shore. Jesus felt great compassion for them and began to teach them. The disciples sought to dismiss the crowd so that they could all eat. Instead, Jesus instructed the disciples to feed the crowd and miraculously provided an abundance of bread and fish (v. 33-44).

- What do you think Jesus wanted the disciples to learn by instructing them to feed the crowds? Take note of verses 35 and 41.



GROW IN THE WORD

- How does Jesus respond with compassion rather than frustration when the crowd meets them at the shore? Consider also what Jesus intended by crossing the sea in the first place.

- In what area of life do you need to look to God for provision?

UPCOMING EVENTS

FATHER SON CAMPOUT

November 3 - 4 | Guadalupe River State Park

The wisdom of a father is lifegiving to his son. Join us as we learn how a father teaches wisdom and how a son is to respond. Cost is \$15 for dad, \$5 per son (ages 5 - 18 years old). Space is limited, so sign up today!

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

October 29 | 12:15 pm | Worship Center

Members are asked to join us as we vote on the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws that were presented at our last meeting. You can view the proposed. amendments online.

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

You can use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each member get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Share a highlight and lowlight of your week.
- Ask the second question in the Connect section of the passage guide and give each person a chance to respond.
- OR follow up with any application items from the previous meeting. How did you do on your application goals from the last passage?

GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Read each section of Scripture you are focusing on prior to discussion. Share observations and the things that stand out most from each section.
- Refer to the questions with cross-references. Read any of the cross-references together and discuss the associated questions.

ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Discuss the application-oriented questions from each section (the last question in section 1, and the last two questions of section 2). Pick 1 if time is running low.
- Close group time by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.