

Mark



Lesson 7-Laboring, Resting, Walking, and Healing

Focus: Mark 6:30-56

1. **As the disciples returned from their Missionary Labors, Christ gave them a lesson on rest (v.30-31)**
 - a. *There's a "time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Christ had given His disciples a mission assignment to accomplish. And now, after this season of labors, Christ called his disciples to come apart and rest awhile to be physically, spiritually, mentally, and socially refreshed without having the taxation of their normal cares and burdens of the work. It was to be a time of refreshing! **God Himself teaches us the principle of rest from the very beginning!** (as with the Creation week—God labored for the first six days, and then He rested on the Sabbath day, not because He needed to rest, but because we need to rest, and He was going to establish a special day for us to do so with Him.)*
 - b. ***It is the devil who is always trying to overburden people with work, and to lead them to forsake such valuable things as rest** (even as with the story of Pharaoh and the Exodus—see highlights from Exodus 5:5-19). **The Bible teaches us to be diligent, but it also teaches us the necessity of Rest!** (See Proverbs 10:4; 12:24, diligence; Luke 10:38-42, Rest and worship).*
 - c. *Their experience and labors were all reported back to Jesus. **They poured out their hearts and souls to Christ. We can do so in prayer as well, and we need to.** Christ invited them to come apart, rest, and eat (both physically and spiritually).*
2. **Christ feeds the five thousand with the small offering of some (v.32-44)**
 - a. (v.32-34) *As they tried to escape from the crowds to go and get their rest, the crowds figured out where they were going and they ran to get there even before them (on the other side of the lake/sea). When Jesus got to his destination and saw all the people "he had compassion on them" and so he began to teach them many things of God again. He was strengthened by His Heavenly Father to open once again, the words of life before the people! **Jesus has a great heart of compassion for saving souls and helping them...even though He and the disciples were tired already.** (Yet, Jesus felt the desire and burden to share with them, and to help them to know God).*
 - b. (v.35-37) **The disciples saw a challenge arising.** How could all of these people be fed? It seemed like it was time to send them away (so that they could go and buy their own food). However, Jesus had another idea. He said, "You give them something to eat." **Was this an impossibility?** It sure seemed like one to the disciples, but Jesus was testing their faith. How would they respond to Him? With men it may be impossible to perform such a thing, but "with God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). God has "a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing"—*Ministry of Healing, p.481. By human reasoning, this could not be done, but by Christ's power, all things could be done.*
 - c. (v.38- 44) Jesus had a plan and He was putting it into action. **(1) First of all, He asked them what they had. What could they do, humanly speaking?** What could they give? (Though it be ever so small).—*Jesus asks us to give whatever we are able to give, even though it is small. Then Jesus*

will bless and multiply it. **(2) The people all sat down in smaller groups** (50-100 people per group). **They were arranged in an orderly and practical way. The work of Jesus is NOT chaotic, but it is orderly** and made to flow more smoothly. **-God likes organization and order. He expects for His people to be organized and to DO HIS WORK in an organized and orderly way...** not chaotically! Chaos does not rightly represent the God whom we serve!! (and it is not effective). **Jesus gave His disciples this work of causing the people to sit down in an orderly way.** (And so God wants us to follow His plans and organization for His work). *After Jesus blessed the food, it was then given to the disciples, and they gave it to the multitude.*

- d. **What are some of the additional lessons that we can learn from this story?** **(1) Jesus teaches us that we should economize**—save things, don't waste—"gather up the fragments so that nothing is lost" **(2) When we consecrate what little we have to God, He will bless it**—don't ever underestimate a gift or think it too small for God to use **(3) Principles of Evangelism—Christ breaks the bread, He gives to His disciples, and then we are to give to others** (start with the little bit that we know of God, and share it with others. Watch how your spiritual knowledge will grow!). The spiritually hungry multitudes may be fed by God's word. **Gather the bread of Heaven** (Jesus and His word fresh every day—**get it for your own soul, then share it with others**; Exodus 16:12-21; John 6; Matthew 4:4; Ecclesiastes 11:1-6; "waters" are the peoples—Rev. 17:15). **The multitudes will be fed and the blessings will continue flowing**—What is blessed by God and then given to the people will produce leftovers (even extra spiritual truth that was not possessed previously to the event of sharing it).
3. **Jesus walks on the water to meet His disciples (v.45-52).** *Jesus finished up this day's work and he sent his disciples (and all the people) away. Jesus went to be alone on the Mountain with God—Jesus lived and labored between "the mountain and the multitude."* He was either laboring with the people, or He was **on the mountain** alone with God the Father—praying and gathering strength, power, and wisdom for His ministry work. This is how we should live—a life of personal devotion to God, and then action for God! The disciples went onto the sea alone and were caught in a dark, windy/stormy night out on the sea. Jesus came walking to them at that hour in a terrifying manner (for them). But, His soft and kind words brought peace to their souls (our words are always so important!!—for good or for evil!). It was **the voice of a friend—Jesus**. When Jesus came into the boat with them, the stormy winds of the sea ceased! (they were amazed, considering not the amazing power of God in Jesus, from even his earlier miracle that day). **This event paints a picture for us of Jesus' relationship to His church from the time of His 1st coming to the time of His 2nd coming!** Notice: Jesus finished His ministry work, then He went alone onto the mountain top to pray and be with God the Father (just as He has now gone to heaven to intercede for us). He sent his disciples to cross the stormy and now dark sea in a boat by themselves (like God's people in the church during these stormy last 2000 years and up until the appearing of Jesus). Maybe they appeared to be alone, but Jesus was ever aware of them and praying for them. **When Jesus came (comes), he comes powerfully**—some are fearful. But, when He speaks to us, and when He reaches His people there is peace, and the fearful tribulation ceases (Acts 14:22; Matthew 24:29-31).
4. **The Healing power of Jesus Christ was set at work in a great way! (v.53-56)** *The word of Christ's power to heal and save was spread to the multitudes. So many souls came to receive their healing from Jesus. "...and as many as touched Him were made whole" (v.56)*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to learn from Jesus how to labor, rest, and walk with Him? _____ Will you choose today to receive His healing power, peace, and forgiveness into your life _____