

Satisfies

Jesus satisfies by providing for our needs.

Mark 6:30-44

30 The **apostles** **A** gathered around Jesus and reported to him all that they had done and taught. **31** He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest for a while.” For many people were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. **32** So they **went away in the boat** **B** by themselves to a **remote place**, **C** **33** but many saw them leaving and recognized them, and they ran **on foot** **D** from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. **34** When he went ashore, he saw a large crowd and had **compassion** **E** on them, because they were like **sheep without a shepherd**. **F** Then he began to teach them many things. **35** When it grew late, his disciples approached him and said, “This place is deserted, and it is already late. **36** Send them away so that they can go into the surrounding countryside and villages to buy themselves something to eat.” **37** “You give them something to eat,” he responded. They said to him, “Should we go and buy **two hundred denarii** **G** worth of bread and give them something to eat?” **38** He asked them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” When they found out they said, “**Five, and two fish.**” **H** **39** Then he instructed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. **40** So they sat down in groups of **hundreds and fifties**. **I** **41** He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he blessed and broke the loaves. He kept giving them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. **42** Everyone ate and **was satisfied**. **J** **43** They picked up **twelve baskets** **K** full of pieces of bread and fish. **44** Now those who had eaten the loaves were five thousand men.

Exploring Key Words

- A** The Greek word *apostolos* means “one who is sent.” Here, Jesus sent His disciples in pairs to share His message (Mark 6:7). Later, He would send them to the entire world (Matt. 28:18-20).
- B** In his Gospel, John explained that they sailed to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (John 6:1). Luke also mentioned Bethsaida (Luke 9:10).
- C** Mark had used similar terms to describe where John was baptizing (Mark 1:3-5), where Jesus was tempted (1:12-13), and how Jesus got alone with His Father (1:35).
- D** A distance of four or five miles. By running, they were able to meet the boat when it landed.
- E** Jesus was not inconvenienced or angry. His heart was moved with pity and love.
- F** This can be understood as a fulfillment of messianic prophecy (Isa. 40:11). Fulfillment of such prophecies would have been important to Mark’s argument that Jesus was the Messiah.
- G** A denarius was a day’s wage in first-century Israel. So, this would have been close to a year’s worth of pay.
- H** The loaves were small, flat barley biscuits. The fish were dried, similar to a sardine. John’s Gospel states that a boy gave the food to Andrew (John 6:8-9).
- I** Jesus directed the crowd to group in an orderly way. Some commentators see this as a reminder of Moses organizing the people’s camp in the wilderness (Ex. 18:21,25).
- J** Every person was full. Jesus made sure no one left with their needs unmet.
- K** These were large, heavy containers. The number is significant, as it matched both the number of apostles and the tribes of Israel.



Rest (Mark 6:30-32)

- The disciples returned after having been sent out and reported to Jesus the things they had done and taught.
- Jesus directed them to go to a remote place to rest because the going and coming of people made it so difficult to relax and recharge. They weren't even able to eat.
- They boarded a boat and headed to a remote location.

Response (Mark 6:33-34)

- The crowd followed Jesus and His disciples on foot and arrived at the remote location before them.
- Jesus had compassion on the crowd because He recognized that they were desperate like helpless sheep. In response, He began teaching them.

Resources (Mark 6:35-38)

- The disciples realized the crowd needed to eat, so they recommended sending the people into the surrounding areas to find food.
- When Jesus challenged the disciples to provide a meal, they focused on the expense required to feed such a multitude.
- After being asked by Jesus to evaluate their resources, the disciples discovered five loaves of bread and two fish.

Relief (Mark 6:39-44)

- After instructing the disciples to organize the crowd into groups of hundreds and fifties, Jesus blessed the loaves and fish. He gave the disciples portions to be served to the crowd until everyone was satisfied.
- The disciples collected twelve baskets of leftovers after feeding more than five thousand people with the loaves and fish.

Summary Statements

Jesus satisfies by providing for our needs.

- Believers should make sure they and others find rest.
- Believers need to feed their souls with the truth of God's Word.
- Believers can look to God to provide when facing a challenge.
- Believers should find satisfaction when Jesus uses them.

Memory Verse

Mark 6:42

Key Doctrine

God the Son

God the Son now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord. (See Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 13:8.)

ENGAGE

How satisfied are you really with the current state of your life? (PSG, p. 37)

- Discontented people are dangerous people. Those who are unsatisfied in their hearts are prone to actions that might cause them to harm themselves or others.
- A lack of satisfaction in marriage, family, job, and spiritual life creates vulnerability to temptation. A wise person will consider the level of satisfaction within his or her heart.

EXPLORE

1. REST (MARK 6:30-32)

Bonus: On a scale of 1-7, with 1 being “lousy” and 7 being “exceptional,” how would you rate your ability to rest? Why?

- Jesus sent out the Twelve in pairs, commissioning them to exercise authority over demons and to preach a message of repentance (Mark 6:7-13). They saw significant impact for God’s kingdom. Later, they returned and reported what they had seen and done to Jesus.
- Jesus knew the disciples needed to get away, so He called them away for a season of rest. This commitment to rest was part of His training program for His followers.
- Ignoring rest has a negative impact on our lives and our ministry. God ordained rest as a part of the rhythm of life.

How can a lack of rest impact one’s ability to serve well? (PSG, p. 40)

- Jesus joined them on their trip to a remote place. True rest doesn’t come to us apart from Jesus. In a spiritual sense, trusting the sacrifice of Jesus to cover our own sinfulness and justify us in the sight of God brings rest.

2. RESPONSE (MARK 6:33-34)

What draws a person to the teachings of Jesus? (PSG, p. 41)

- Despite finding a deserted area, Jesus and the disciples could not escape the crowds. The intensity of their pursuit of Jesus was proportionate to their sense of need.
- Jesus responded by teaching the multitude. In our humanity, we crave the satisfaction of our physical needs. Yet, our needs run deeper. Everyone has spiritual needs, though each person experiences them differently.

Bonus: What can believers do to show genuine compassion today?

3. RESOURCES (MARK 6:35-38)

Bonus: What steps do you take to solve a problem?

- The disciples recognized a difficult problem. It was late. They were in a desolate area. And they had no food.

- Their assessment was not wrong, but they failed to factor Jesus into their equation. Any evaluation of a problem that doesn’t take God’s power into account is inadequate.

Why are we prone to focus on problems instead of considering what God can do? (PSG, p. 42)

- Jesus challenged the disciples to feed the crowd. He had already made them partners in His ministry, but this moved them farther from their comfort zone than they liked. Simply put, they lacked faith.
- At Jesus’s direction, they found five small loaves of bread and two small fish. As the disciples would learn, even limited resources are more than enough for Jesus.

Bonus: Is it easier to be part of the problem or part of the solution? Explain.

4. RELIEF (MARK 6:39-44)

Bonus: What do you have to offer Jesus right now?

- Like a Jewish father, Jesus blessed the food, broke it into pieces, and gave it to His disciples to distribute.
- Everyone in attendance was satisfied. The Greek wording indicates eating until one is full. Jesus satisfies us with both who He is and what He provides.
- The satisfaction even extended to the disciples. After serving the people, they collected twelve baskets of leftovers. The ones who had not found time to eat (v. 31) now had a basket for themselves.

How do we find genuine satisfaction with all the things that Jesus provides? (PSG, p. 44)

CHALLENGE

As a group, discuss how serving in a ministry role can be exhausting sometimes.

What can the group do for each other to encourage each one to find adequate rest in service to Jesus and to the church? (PSG, p. 45)

Encourage individuals to reflect on the following questions in response to the group discussion.

What problems are currently occupying your attention and focus? How is the instruction you are receiving from Him through the Scripture adjusting your perspective on the situation? (PSG, p. 45)



For Further Discussion

Scan here for additional discussion questions for this week’s study.

**BIBLE SKILL (P. 40, PSG)**

Memorize a Bible passage and apply it to your life.

Memorize Mark 6:31 in your preferred Bible translation. Write out the verse on several different index cards and place them in places that you will see throughout the day. Each time you see the verse, say it aloud. Reflect on ways you can include Jesus's invitation to rest in the normal rhythm of your life.

Lead the group to complete the Bible Skill activity (PSG, p. 40). Provide several index cards for each person in the group. Direct them to write Mark 6:31 on the cards and encourage them to place them in locations so that they will see them throughout the week. Lead them to set a goal of setting aside at least five minutes each day to rest.

OBJECT LESSON: FISH AND BREAD

Secure five small croissants and a can of sardines. Show the items to the group and ask them to imagine this amount of food feeding more than 5,000 people. Point out that the presence of women and children could have driven the number toward 15,000 people or more. Ask: *How do you think the disciples felt witnessing this miracle? What would that do to your faith?*

Encourage adults to think about the needs in their lives right now. Provide a few minutes for silent prayer so they can ask God to meet those needs and to give them the faith to believe He will do it in His way and in His timing.

**DIG DEEPER****THE SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP**

Five loaves of bread and two fish fed more than 5,000 hungry people—with twelve baskets left over. Why is this story found in Mark's Gospel? Jesus was proving that a shepherd always takes care of his sheep. Like sheep, we bring nothing to the equation. Like a shepherd, God offers everything we need.

From a human perspective, five loaves and two fish were not enough to feed so many people. But God allowed a multitude of men and women and children to find physical satisfaction. Jesus took care of the "sheep" (Mark 6:34), and He still takes care of His people. We could never break down all the ways God cares for us. But Mark 6 does reveal at least a couple of ways Jesus meets our needs on a regular basis.

First, God gives us rest. Mark 6:30-32 recounts that after the apostles' preaching mission (6:7-13), Jesus took them away to rest (6:31). It's not a sin to relax. In this case, it would have been a sin not to relax given Jesus told them to do so.

We are constantly busy and make an idol of work. Jesus reminded us about the importance of rest by giving us a picture of solitude.

Next, Jesus takes care of our physical and spiritual needs. As sheep, we are prone to wander. But He provides, and He keeps us safe. We cannot survive without God.

Some point out that women and children would have pushed the number of people to 15,000 or more. Still, Jesus refused to send anyone away. Instead, He challenged His disciples. Often, meeting people's physical needs allows us to address their spiritual needs by pointing them to Him.

BONUS CONTENT**Sea of Galilee**

Get an aerial view of the Sea of Galilee and the location of notable events in Jesus's earthly ministry, including the feeding of the multitude.