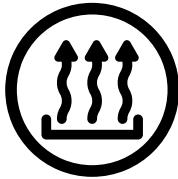




The Gospel of Mark



WARM-UP

If you could endlessly multiply food, what type of food would it be?



What happened last week in Mark chapter 6?

MARK 6:30-44 (NIV)

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. 31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” 32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. 33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

35 By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. 36 Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

37 But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

38 “How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

39 Then Jesus directed 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. 41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. 42 They all ate and were satisfied, 43 and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. 44 The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.



What stands out to you?



Where are your “quiet places” to rest, be with God, and be with your community?



What do Jesus’ actions here in the feeding of the 5,000 tell us about Him?



Bethlehem literally means “house of bread” or “city of bread”. Where else have you seen the imagery of bread throughout the bible? How could this help inform this miracle?

MARK 6:45-56 (NIV)

45 Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. 46 After leaving them, he went up on a mountaintop to pray.

47 Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. 48 He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, 49 but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, 50 because they all saw him and were terrified.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” 51 Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, 52 for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

53 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. 54 As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. 55 They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. 56 And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.



How might we attribute the physical experience of the disciples to the spiritual truths of the gospel?

The Sea of Galilee is 696 feet below sea level, resulting in violent downdrafts and sudden windstorms. Jesus sees the disciples' need and walks on water toward them. He meant to pass by them, not to avoid them, but so that they would see him walking on the water. The passage echoes the incident where God "passed" before Moses (Ex. 33:19,22; 34:6), giving a glimpse of his glory...By walking on the water, Jesus is essentially proclaiming his deity.

- Commentary from the The Global Study Bible ESV



The disciples had seen so much and still their hearts were hardened. How might this caution us in our walks with the Lord?

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- The sick people were desperate for relief. Is that how we feel about our sin? Desperate for relief? Willing to go anywhere and everywhere to meet with Jesus?
- Do you believe that you already have the abundance from Christ? What makes it hard to live in that truth?