



**A BETTER
WORD**

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

A Study Through the Life of King Jesus | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

Bread From Heaven

Mark 6:30–44

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus is sufficient to satisfy your greatest hunger.

SERMON SUMMARY

The disciples come back exhausted and grieving John's death, and Jesus takes them away to rest. Mark calls the destination a "desolate place" three times — his way of putting us back in the wilderness on purpose. But the crowd guesses where the boat is headed and beats them to the shore. Tired people are rarely compassionate people. Jesus is. He sees sheep without a shepherd. They are leaderless, wandering, following one another in circles and his first response is compassion. So he teaches them, feeding the sheep with his Word.

By evening they are in a desolate place, the hour is late, there are five thousand hungry people, and just five loaves and two fish. The scene is reminiscent of Moses — the deliverer and provider who led Israel through the wilderness, divided them into fifties and hundreds, and pointed them to the manna God sent each day. Jesus divides this crowd the same way and looks to heaven, but no bread needs to fall. He breaks what he has, and the baskets never empty. That is creation power. They all ate and were satisfied, with twelve baskets left over. The miracle was more than sufficient — and so is the miracle worker.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Mark calls the location a "desolate place" three separate times. What is he preparing you to notice — and how does that change the way you read what happens next?
2. Jesus looks at the crowd and sees "sheep without a shepherd." In 2005 nearly 1,500 sheep near Gevaş, Turkey followed one another off a cliff. Where do you see that same leaderless following in our culture — and where do you see it in yourself?
3. Notice what Jesus does with his compassion: he teaches them. Why is feeding people with the Word an act of compassion rather than a substitute for one? How do Numbers 27:17 and Psalm 23 fill out the picture?
4. Walk through the Moses parallels — the wilderness, the manna, the groups of fifties and hundreds (Exodus 18:25). How does Mark show you a Jesus who is not merely a second Moses but something far greater? How does John 6:32–35 make that explicit?

5. Jesus feeds five thousand people and there is more left over than he started with. In John 6:35 he tells that same crowd, "I am the bread of life." What are you actually hungry for right now — money, prestige, the next experience, control? What does it promise you, and what can it never deliver that only Christ can?

LIVING IT OUT

Twelve baskets left over — one for every disciple who had just told Jesus it could not be done. He does not merely meet the need; he outruns it. Good desires are not the problem. The problem is asking any of them to do what only Christ can do. If you are missing the best of the Christian life, it may be because you settled for the handful you could reach on your own instead of what he was holding out.

Heart Check: What have you been reaching for lately, expecting it to satisfy you? Be specific. When was the last time it delivered what it promised — and how long did that last?

This Week: Name the one hunger driving you most right now and hand it to Jesus by name each morning this week. Then spend ten minutes a day in John 6 and ask him to be the bread you actually feed on.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

— **John 6:35**

Thank Jesus for a compassion that meets you before you deserve it — then ask him to shape your desires until your deepest rest and joy are found in him rather than in what you have been chasing.

Your Prayer:

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