

MARK 6:30-56

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. What do the disciples report to Jesus about their mission? What does Jesus tell them?
2. What does the crowd do in response to the retreat of Jesus and his disciples? Describe how the text describes the response of Jesus and of his disciples to the crowd.
3. How many people were fed by Jesus and the disciples? What were they fed with? How much food was left over?
4. What does Jesus do and what do the disciples do after feeding the 5,000?
5. According to the text, why does Jesus set out after the disciples?
6. What is the response of the disciples when they see Jesus? What happens after Jesus gets into the boat? How are the disciples described?
7. What happens in Gennesaret?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. What would you say is the significance of the feeding of the 5000? What does this tell us about Jesus?
2. What is the fourth watch of the night (v. 48)? How long have the disciples been in the sea?
3. After being successful in their mission, seeing Jesus feed the 5,000, and walk on the water, we see that the disciples' hearts were hardened (v.52). What was it that contributed to this state of the disciples? How would you describe the disciples state of mind and body? Is this a sufficient explanation for their response of hardness? Why or why not? How would you have responded?
4. Is there a relationship between the mission of the disciples and the miracle of the feeding?

APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. The disciples were tired when the crowd pressed around them. They wanted the people to take care of their own need, Jesus responded to them with compassion. The disciples were forced to be in a position of service (they literally waited on the people in passing out the food), and I think Jesus intentionally places this miracle here so the disciples keep in perspective their mission as authoritative representatives and their role as servants. How do you balance your ministry with a servant's attitude? How can remembering being a servant enhance your ministry? Would you have received the message from Jesus, or would you have been inwardly angry while passing out baskets of fish and loaves?
2. Examine the state of your heart. Is it hardened to the words of Christ?
3. In what area of your life do you need to have assurance from Jesus, to have courage and not be afraid?

ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.