

**THURSDAY**

**A Different Kind of Messiah**

- Jesus/disciples = by boat go to remote area eastern shore of Sea of Galilee = to rest
- Crowd of 5,000 men = plus women/children ran ahead on shore to meet Him

**Mark 6:34–52** <sup>34</sup>And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

- Like sheep = helpless/hungry = exposed to peril
  - lacked guidance/protection
- In His humanity = Jesus Himself was tired/hungry
  - moved w/ compassion
- Knew their spiritual condition = worse than physical
  - began teaching = continued all day [Mt. 4:4]

<sup>35</sup>When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, “This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. <sup>36</sup>Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat.”

- In their humanity = disciples tired/hungry
  - ready for Him to dismiss crowds

<sup>37</sup>But He answered and said to them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to Him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?”

- He commanded the impossible
- 200 denarii = 8 months wages = beyond their capability
  - Reasoning w/human reason

<sup>38</sup>But He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they found out they said, “Five, and two fish.”

- Loaves = rolls / little bread cakes = just 2

**Mark 6:39** Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties.

- In semi-circles, or 3 sides of a square – organized so that serving of food = efficient system

<sup>41</sup>And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all.

- Between act of prayer / breaking / distributing = miracle took place in Christ's hands
- Pattern for ministry = Jesus provides disciples
  - w/ resources for ministry

<sup>42</sup>So they all ate and were filled. <sup>43</sup>And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish.

- Jesus provided more than they needed
- Crowd seated on “green grass” = fully satisfied
  - true Shepherd of Psalm 23 who makes His sheep lie down in green pastures had arrived

<sup>44</sup>Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.

- Gk “men” = adult males only / not generic term
- Mt. 14:21= 5k men, besides women/children

<sup>45</sup>Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away.

<sup>46</sup>And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.

- Sends disciples off / boat= He goes up mountain to pray

<sup>47</sup>Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup>Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night

[fourth watch = between 3:00am and 6:00am] He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by.

**Mark 6:49** And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; <sup>50</sup>for they all saw Him and were troubled.

- Jesus' Supernatural power on full display as He exercised power over physical realm
  - did what would be impossible for mere human
- Disciples fatigued /fearful of storm = though each saw Him
  - fear led to apprehension
  - thought He was = “phantom”
- **Takeaway** = Jesus doesn't abandon His disciples in storm

But immediately He talked with them and said to them, “Be of good cheer! It is I; [Literally: “I AM” = Yahweh / burning bush Ex. 3:14] do not be afraid.”

- Take courage = Jesus reassures them

<sup>51</sup>Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. <sup>52</sup>For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

- Not hardened against Him, but against truth
- Had **preconceived opinion** =
  - Messiah would be political / military Deliverer
- **Error effectively insulates mind against truth**
  - makes it impenetrable
- Learn error = often difficult to **unlearn** = then must **relearn**
- Perhaps looked at Him as new Moses = miraculously feeding
- Did not yet recognize Him as Yaweh

ABSG: In place of the popular view of the Messiah as a king who liberates Israel, He comes to liberate people from the bondage of sin.

His walking on the water displays to the disciples that He is, indeed, the Lord of nature. But He does not come to rule but to give His life as a ransom for many (*Mark 10:45*).

**What should this story tell us about why a correct understanding of prophecy is important? If a false understanding of Christ's first coming led to disaster for some, how much more so could a false understanding do the same for some in regard to His Second?**