



Study 8: Jesus—The Shepherd Man

Mark 6:30-56

Personal Preparation 1

Have you ever had the experience of not seeing the thing you're looking for even though it is there right in front of you? In Mark 6:30-56, we read of two occasions when the disciples are right there with Jesus, but they are not seeing him for who he really is. The question is also there for us to consider – are we seeing Jesus for who he is and responding rightly to him?

Read Mark 6:30-44

1. How would you describe the situation for Jesus and his disciples from v30-33?
2. Do Jesus and his disciples get the rest and peace they are after? v33-34
3. What is Jesus' attitude to the crowds that crave contact with him? v34
4. As you read through this episode, how does Jesus show himself to be a shepherd to the people? Hint – in your answer don't forget to include the end of v34!

Read Zechariah 10:2; Ezekiel 34:1-5; 1 Kings 22:17

Many times in the past, Israel has been described as sheep without a shepherd. The shepherd has arrived at last!

5. Do you treat Jesus as your shepherd today? How are you letting Jesus be your shepherd?

Personal Preparation 2

What Jesus did with the bread and fish isn't just an act of charity – providing food for the hungry masses. It was an act full of meaning and significance that pointed to the truth of who he is and how others should respond to him.

Read Mark 6:30-44

1. What do the disciples want to do when they realise the time with this huge hungry crowd? v35-36

2. How would you describe the exchange between Jesus and the disciples in v35-38?
3. What happens after the disciples work out they have five loaves of bread and two fish?
4. This event might be reminding you of another time. What Old Testament event involved miraculous feeding out in an isolated wilderness area? See Exodus 16:11-18.
5. During the exodus (that great time of salvation for Israel) Moses was shepherding the people through the wilderness and God was miraculously providing bread. If now with Jesus similar things are happening – what does this say about the time?

thoughts. questions. insights

Jesus: The Shepherd Man, Group Discussion Questions

Is there a great meal that you remember enjoying? Why is it memorable for you?

1. Jesus provided a very memorable meal to the hungry people that were in a 'remote place' by the lake. As you've discovered in Personal Preparation, what is significant about this meal?
2. As you saw in Personal Preparation 1 – many times in Israel's past they've been described as a sheep without a shepherd. Do you think the current crop of leaders in Israel are any better? Do any bad examples come to mind?
3. **Read Psalm 78:52-55** to help you keep thinking about what Jesus is doing. How is Jesus different to the rulers of the day?

Read Mark 6:45-56

4. Discuss what is amazing and surprising about this event.
5. What is the disciples' reaction to seeing Jesus on the water? v49-50
6. What is Jesus' response to them?
7. What is Mark's commentary on their response? v51-52
8. What do you think the disciples should have got from the loaves event?
9. The disciples are described as hard hearted. It's similar to the way the teachers of the law are described. See Mark 3:5-6. But what makes the disciples different ?
10. In what sorts of situations are we tempted to not trust in Jesus' rule and power and provision for us? What do we need to do to keep seeing Jesus for who he really is?

Pray

- In a world where we know of and experience bad shepherds, give thanks that Jesus is the loving shepherd.
- Pray for your groups 'Jesus—Pure & Simple' social event. Pray that the events would be run well and be enjoyable for all the guests.
- Pray that _____ would come to know Jesus as their shepherd

Remember

- There is no normal growth group next week. It is our 'Jesus-Pure & Simple' Event'.
- This coming Sunday is the last time to buy books from the book table.
- For those who have children in grade 5 or 6, there is the next social event coming up—Sunday 4 May, Flinders Beach Sandgate, straight after church.