

April 16, 2023

Pastor Keith Smith

## A Developing Faith

### Mark 6:30-44 (NIV)

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> 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.”** <sup>32</sup> So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup> But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” <sup>37</sup> 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?” <sup>38</sup> **“How many loaves do you have?”** he asked. **“Go and see.”** When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.” <sup>39</sup> Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, <sup>43</sup> and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. <sup>44</sup> The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

### Thoughts & Questions to Fuss With:

1. What one word would you use to describe the TONE of this passage? (E.g., stern, joyful, cautious, etc.)
2. What word or idea stands out to you in this passage?
3. What is one thing you do not understand in this passage?
4. Why do you think it was important for Mark to note that Jesus had “compassion” on the people?
5. Explain the *comparison*, “like sheep without a shepherd” (v. 34).
6. The disciples had just returned from their own ministry tours. Why do you think they were thinking through a worldly perspective when it came to feeding the people?
7. How would you characterize the disciples’ response (v. 37b) to Jesus’ command (v. 37a)?
8. Is there any significance to Jesus instructing the disciples to sit the people in groups of 50 or 100?
9. Verse 43 noted the disciples picked up 12 baskets of leftover bread and fish. Do you see any significance to there being 12 baskets?