

**First Baptist Church Merritt Island**  
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**July 30, 2023**  
**Jesus Is More Than Enough**  
**Mark 6:30-44**

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A week ago, last Friday, Emily and I decided to head over to Orlando for dinner followed by a stop at Krispy Kreme for some hot and fresh donuts. It was a great night. The only thing I don't like about driving to and from Orlando is driving to and from Orlando...especially on a Friday night. We were 10 minutes late because of traffic and my inability to find a parking spot. On our way home, we got rerouted and didn't hit the beachline until we were on the east side of Orlando. And, for those of you who have driven the beachline, you know there's a desolate stretch where you won't see a gas station for about 30 miles or so.

That's when I realized we were low on gas. I mean, really low on gas. And I couldn't remember where the last gas station was, but I thought it was just up ahead. Well, by the time realized I was wrong, it felt like we were too far to turn back. So, for about 25 miles, Emily and I were running on fumes. I was gripping the steering wheel, like I could increase the gas mileage by sheer willpower. Em asked me if we were going to make it. I put on my best attempt at a confident look and said, "Oh, yeah. I'm sure we will be fine."

Guys, 25 miles seems like forever when you know you're running on fumes, and you don't know how much you've got left in the tank. Thankfully, we got to the gas station in West Cocoa, and I didn't have to walk off my Krispy Kreme donuts.

Now, here's why I bring that up today. I know most of you can identify with Emily and me on our date night. You know what it's like to be on a desolate stretch of life's road – you might be on one today. You know what it's like to be running on fumes – you might be in that place right now. You know enough about life to know that no matter how good things are today, there might be an exhausting season just around the corner.

And there are a couple of really important questions we need to ask when we are in that place, don't answer them out loud:

- "How does Jesus feel about us when we feel like that about our life?"
- "What does Jesus want for us when we're running on fumes?"

Thankfully, we don't have to wonder about the answers to those questions. Our text gives us insight into the heart of Jesus for people who feel exhausted and empty. As we look at this passage, I want you to think about how it answers those two questions.

**Mark 6:30–44**

**30 The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. 31 And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. 33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 34 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. 35 And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. 36 Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." 37**

***But he answered 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 it to them to eat?” 38 And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” 39 Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. 41 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. 42 And they all ate and were satisfied. 43 And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. 44 And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.***

There are only two miracles of Jesus that occur in all four accounts of the life of Christ: His resurrection from the dead and the miracle in our text. As much as any other miracles, these two reveal the truth about who Jesus is and what He desires to do in the lives of His followers.

And I want to start by considering two truths that are plainly emphasized about Jesus.

1. Jesus has compassion for lost and weary people.

***34 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.***

The word compassion in this verse comes from a word that originally referred to internal organs. It's a way of describing a depth of feeling for someone that literally affects you internally. Have you ever seen someone get hurt and it made you feel sick to your stomach? It's that kind of idea. This compassion is a deeply felt pity and care for someone else. That's how Jesus feels in our text. He feels deep compassion for people who are lost and weary. The reason I say "lost and weary" is because there are two groups of people in our text who experience the compassion of Jesus.

- In verse 34, Jesus has compassion for the massive crowd of people who are spiritually **lost** like sheep without a shepherd.
- In the verse few verses we read, the disciples experience His compassion when they come back from their missionary journey to reach the lost and are exhausted and weary.

I don't know what weary-making thing is going on in your life today, but I do know this: Jesus cares for you. He loves people and hates every sinful thing that destroys them. As a matter of fact, His love moved Him from the throne of Heaven to the cross of Calvary to fight and conquer sin so that lost and weary people could have a new life in Him.

So, how does Jesus feel about lost and weary people who are running on fumes? He has compassion.

The other thing we see about Jesus is...

2. Jesus has more than enough power for all that we need.

We'll dig into this in just a moment, but that's a central theme in this story. The disciples are hungry and weary. The crowds are hungry and weary. No one can do anything about it. No one but Jesus. And, He doesn't just have enough, He has more than enough. The disciples who start this story without enough time to even eat will end this story with each of them holding a basket full of leftovers. Jesus has more than enough power for all that we need.

So, what does Jesus want for you when you are weary and running on fumes? He wants you to experience His power which is more than enough for all that you need.

The center of this passage is Jesus. He is compassionate. He is powerful. And He wants people who are lost and weary to experience His compassionate power. That helps us understand the big idea for our study today: The compassionate power of Jesus is more than enough for those who rest in and rely on Him.

Friend, if you are weary and running on fumes today, hear the good news about Jesus: He cares for you and His compassionate power is more than enough for all you need. And He's calling you to turn from sin and self and come to Him and rest in and rely on Him.

Now, let's walk back through some of the details of this text and see why I say He is calling us to rest in and rely on Him to experience His compassionate power.

Jesus wants us to Rest in Him as though it ultimately depends on Him.

***30 The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. 31 And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.***

The disciples had gone out on a mission to tell people about Jesus and to meet their needs, including healing diseases and casting out demons. And, when they get back to Jesus, they are exhausted because the needs of people were unrelenting. Verse 31 says people just kept on coming to the point that the disciples didn't even have time to eat. (I love Lucy, Lucy and Ethel – life is like that...troubles just keep coming). They are tired and hungry and weary. So, Jesus tells them to come away by themselves to a desolate place and rest awhile. That doesn't mean He wants them away from Him, because He gets in the boat with Him. It means He wants them to be quiet and still with Him. He commands them to rest.

Stop working. Stop trying to fix it. Stop trying to save. Just stop and rest. Jesus isn't a heartless taskmaster who is willing to burn out His people just to get the job done. He wants us to rest in Him. But, what about all of the needs? What about all the work? What about all of the people in my life who have needs? Jesus cares about them and will take care of them. Let me show you something that's easy to overlook in these verses.

Look at verses 33-34

***33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 34 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.***

It's easy to see that the crowd is unrelenting and won't give Jesus and the disciples a moment of rest. What's easy to overlook is how Mark focuses on the One who does the work.

- Verse 34 says that Jesus got out of the boat and went ashore.
- It says Jesus saw the crowd.
- It says Jesus had compassion.
- It says Jesus began to teach them many things.

Who is doing the work? Jesus. At this point, it doesn't even mention the disciples. Why? Because the work depends on Jesus and not the disciples. In a minute, we will see that Jesus definitely wants to work through His disciples, but at this moment He wants it to be clear that He isn't dependent on them. They are dependent on Him and He wants them to know it, and live like it, and rest in Him.

How ironic would it be if they were still asleep in the boat? And that's a key to learning to rest. The work that Jesus desires to do in and around your life is a work that ultimately depends on Him and not you.

Listen to the way Psalm 127 describes this...

*1 Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. 2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.*

Psalm 127 is telling us that there is more than one way to work: You can make bread out of fear and anxiety, or you can make bread out of faith, resting in the truth that unless Jesus does what only Jesus can do, your work is in vain...it's useless. And the Lord wants us to be reminded of that so much that He designed us in a way that every, single day we have to lay down as though we are dead for 8 hours and sleep. We have a sovereign God and His plan for this world ultimately depends on His power, not ours. And the same goes for our life and our family and this church. Jesus wants us to experience His compassionate power by resting in the fact that He cares and has the power to do what no one else can. He is working in and around and through us and His work depends on Him and not us. And we experience His work around us when we learn how to rest in His sufficient power.

So, what in your life is keeping you from sleep? What's keeping you from resting today? Would you ask Jesus to show you His compassionate power there and help you believe He is doing a work that depends on Him, not you?

Jesus wants us to Rely on Him as though His work includes us.

**35 And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place. [ Jesus must have been like, I know, I chose it for that reason], and the hour is now late. 36 Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." 37 But he answered 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 it to them to eat?" [8 months wages] 38 And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." 39 Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. 41 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all.**

As the day was getting late, the disciples realized that thousands of people had traveled on foot to this desolate place and there was no reasonable way to feed them all. So, they come to Jesus and tell Him to send the crowd away to get some food. But Jesus has another plan. Verse 37, Jesus gives them a command: You give them something to eat.

That's an impossible command. They basically don't have any food. And, they don't have enough money to buy it. Even if they did, there isn't a place to buy food because it's a desolate place. But Jesus isn't joking around. He really means to do the impossible. He wants to work a miracle.

And this helps us understand part of what it looks like to rest in Jesus. It's not a call to be lazy or disengaged. God's sovereignty isn't simply a reference to the power of Jesus to do anything that pleases Him, it's a reference to the rule of Jesus over our lives. He is a Sovereign King. He has a call for the people of His Kingdom. His work doesn't depend on us, but it includes us. He wants to do a work that flows in and through us as we rely on Him.

And that's a microcosm of the whole Christian life. Jesus wants to work by His power through you to enable you to live the kind of life that only He can live. Listen to *Galatians 2:20* - *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

When we turn to Jesus in repentance and faith, depending on Him to be our very life, He promises to live by His power through us. He promises to give us the kind of life that only He is able to live.

That's actually something John records in his account of this miracle. Just a few verses after this miracle occurs in John, you find Jesus having this discussion with a group of people:

*John 6:33–35*

*33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” 35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.*

Jesus is saying: “I am the Bread. The Bread I want to give you is ME. I want to be in you and provide life for you and give you what only I can give you.” Broken at the cross, sufficient to satisfy our every need. Jesus wants to make an abundant, miraculous life possible for everyone who receives Him through repentance and faith. That is the heart of the gospel. That is the message of Christianity. Experiencing the compassionate power of Jesus as we rely entirely on Him and He lives powerfully in us.

So, what's it look like to rely on Jesus?...faith...belief...trust...but what does that look like?

Relying on Jesus is a matter of obedience.

I hope you noticed the role reversal that took place between Jesus and the disciples. In verse 35, the disciples tell Jesus to send the crowd away. Then, in verse 37, Jesus tells them to give the crowd something to eat. So, who's in charge here? Exactly. The disciples had to surrender to Jesus as the One in charge. We have to die to the desire to be in control if we are going to rely on Jesus to be our Lord. And often, this simply looks like obeying what Jesus has to say, no matter what. Doing what Jesus says to do in His word. That's what the disciples do.

***Verse 38 - And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”***

Jesus says, “Go see how much food you have.” And that's what they do. They don't know how it's going to work out. They simply obey. Experiencing the power of Jesus often boils down to simply acknowledging that He is our Lord, so we trust Him and obey what Jesus has said in His word, the Bible.

You want to know why many so-called Christians never experience the fullness of Christ's power? Because Jesus doesn't empower disobedience. You'll never walk on water if you stay in the boat! So, is there any area of your life where you have been hesitant to obey the word of Jesus in the Bible?

Relying on Jesus is a matter of ownership.

***41 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves...***

Jesus took everything they had which means the disciples had to hand over everything they had. Relying on Him meant that they kept nothing back from Him. They trusted Him and believed He had a right to everything they had. Even though their everything was practically nothing, Jesus wanted it all. They didn't know what He was going to do. They just knew He had a right to everything in their life because it all belongs to Him anyway.

So, what are you hanging onto today? What part of your life are you struggling to set before Jesus and say, "Jesus, do whatever you please. It belongs to you."? Will you lay it down today? Your children. Your job. Your future. Your finances. Your dreams and plans and goals. Will you lay it all down?

Relying on Jesus is a matter of believing Jesus is our Lord and the rightful owner of everything in our lives, including our very lives.

And, what happens for weary travelers who learn to rest in and rely on Jesus?

***42 And they all ate and were satisfied. 43 And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. 44 And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.***

At the start of this story, everyone is hungry. Everyone is weary. When all is said and done, everyone is satisfied. There were 5000 men. If you add in women and children, that crowd could have been between 10,000-20,000. And the next-to-nothing loaves and fish satisfied all of them...and each weary disciple had a basket of leftovers to take home.

Jesus is more than enough. That's the point. He's more than enough. So, will you rest in Him and rely on Him and walk in His power today? Some may be weary. He's more than enough. Some of you may be lost. Begin this journey by placing your faith and trust in Jesus.