**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 14 – All I Have Is This**

**Happy Thanksgiving weekend! For some of you this was a tough day! You are not alone!! You are loved! This will not be forever!**

**We are walking w/ Jesus through the Gospel of Mark – Good news!**

**Today biggest Thanksgiving dinner in the Bible, easily 1 of the top 5 most popular stories of Jesus. (Movie Clip)**

**1 of only 2 miracles recorded in all 4 gospels – the other is the resurrection. This very significant and it definitely happened.**

**Mark 6:30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. (sent them out to heal the sick and preach, been possibly several weeks) 31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, (days when you don’t have a chance to eat) he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” 32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.**

**\*\* Jesus cares about the shepherds week!**

**Jesus cares about those who labor in the Lord.**

**No greater joy than serving the Lord in ministry – I am blessed to be able to be an equipping leader. But it can be hard!**

**Sometimes we go non-stop. Jesus says - be sure to rest, relax, eat something - little R&R. Even Jesus says you need a break.**

**\*\*We must be careful not to work in our own strength.**

**33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them (someone saw them and posted it on Instagram) and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. (because he sent them out, people were rushing to the disciples too) 34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. (w/out a shepherd / leader - without hope – imagine a sheep alone, hungry, and defenseless – Jesus cares! Moved on the inside. Heavy hearted.) So, he began teaching them many things.**

**\*\* Jesus cares about the lost sheep!**

**While some might look at people as work - in Christ we should be moved with compassion when we see people. Each face - a need, a hunger, a hurt. What do you see when you see people?**

**Jesus cares about the shepherds and the sheep.**

**He Has Compassion for the Scattered Ones - Matt. 9:36; 15:32**

**He Has Compassion for the Sinning Ones –Matt. 18:23-35**

**He Has Compassion for the Sick Ones - Mark 1:40-45**

**He Has Compassion for the Suffering Ones - Luke 7:11-13**

**He Has Compassion for the Seeking Ones - Mark 10:17-22**

**I think of missions in Haiti and Honduras. Eating every few days - The Hope and Love Challenge – this past week.**

**Look how he responded - V.34b “So he began teaching them many things.”**

**Jesus first fed them the word of God. Remember teaching was an extremely important part of his ministry and our ministry!**

**Mark 6:35 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. (who was nominated to tell Jesus – Jesus we need to wrap this up…Peter You do it!) 36 Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” (show location – Luke 9:10 – it was in Bethsaida)**

**V.44 & Matt 14:21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. (15-20,000 people - slide)**

**Disciple’s solution was, send ‘em away. Let them deal with it.**

**This is too big for us / and possibly for you to figure out.**

**37 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?” ($20,000 equivalent to feed everyone - it never dawned on them that Jesus was about to do something.)**

**This could have been the end of the story – let’s call it a day and send everyone away – next story… BUT…**

**38 “How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.” (John 6:6 says Jesus already knew –he did this to test the disciples?) When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.” (5 flat biscuits & 2 dried fish jerky – John 6 -says Andrew asked around and collected a young boy’s dinner)**

**I can image the disciples rolling their eyes thinking, “This is going to bad.” Laughable - about to feed the massive crowd…**

**(without skipping a beat) 39 Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. (Jesus directs the disciples to organize the multitude. God works thru organization.) 41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. (where praying for meals started)**

**Notice he did not bless the food he thanked the Lord – some translations say blessed and broke the loaves – the blessing was not to the food – but he blessed / honored God.**

**Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. 42 They all ate and were satisfied, 43 and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. (one for every doubting disciple) 44 The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. (15-20,000 people filled and satisfied – with leftovers)**

**The Big Picture – Jesus can do anything… but is there more.**

**They had seen: water to wine (power to transform and create) healing lepers and sick (power over disease), cast out demons (power over devil), quiet a storm (power over creation), raise the dead (power over death) – but they had not seen anything like this yet. This was a Different Kind of Miracle this was a – miracle of God’s provision.**

**How this relates to us – today.**

**Teaching his disciple about provision. How it works:**

**1. Seek the provider, not the provision…**

**Don’t seek what you need – seek the one who owns all things.**

**Gen 22:14 - Jehovah Jireh – God our provider! Abraham & Isaac**

**Matthew 6:31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.**

**Anytime we say we are going to seek God second or do something else first, we are seeking provision in ourselves and not in God. God provides for those who seek him fist.**

**Seek the provider, not the provision…**

**\*Because - God is more than enough**

**At first the disciple looked at what the need was and said - we can’t / Jesus can’t. But God had not failed them & won’t start now - never will!**

**That little boy’s mother had no idea how her love for her son would touch so many. God uses a little to do more than enough.**

**When it seems too big – too extravagant, God has resources we know nothing about. Jesus started with what they had.**

**2. Give God what you have…**

**Jesus asked. “what do you have?” (not much) Jesus responds, “bring it to me.”**

**If I won’t give God the little I have, I won’t experience the abundance he has – that’s how it works.**

**Luke 16:10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. (very little = the smallest and tiniest)**

**\*\*Are you able to trust God with however little you have?**

**Give it to God and you will step into God’s provision.**

**We see four responses to problems in this passage:**

1. **We just can’t do it - get rid the problem – send them away**
2. **We need more money – let’s think realistically – we are short on $$**
3. **We don’t have enough for everyone – lower the expectations**
4. **We can give it to Jesus and stand back**

**Bring your little faith – your little resources – your little abilities – and watch what Jesus can do! God is more than enough!**

**Give God what you have…**

**\*Because God wants us to give thanks for it, even if it’s “not enough”**

**Your 5 biscuits and 2 dried fish jerky’s… can go a long way!**

**However, much you have… give thanks and give it to God.**

**He will break it – and use it for his glory.**

**“But I don’t have very much – I barely make it” 1 Thess 5:18 …give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

**Give God what you have…**

**\*Because God likes to use unexpected people to serve his purposes**

**An old man past his prime named Abraham – used to be the hope of humanity**

**The sling shot of a young boy named David - used to save a nation**

**Young girl from the country named Mary - to give birth to the savior of the world**

**A little boy with no name gave what he had - and it fed the masses!**

**Men and women, young and old – who simply said like that young boy, “God all I have this… if you want it.” Who knows what He will do with your little if you can just get it into His hands! Give your life and what you have to Jesus…**

**3. Do whatever the Lord says…**

**Have everyone sit in groups of 50’s and 100’s and get ready to pass it out**

**I can imagine the disciples nervous – we are going to make people mad – this is going nowhere and sideways - but okay…**

**Do whatever the Lord says…**

**\*Because God says provision is always found in the path of obedience**

**Luke 11:28 “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”**

**There are times when it will make no sense – but do it anyway.**

**Jesus used doubting disciples who simply obeyed his instructions.**

**Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (direct your paths)**

**Obeying in the small matters unfolds God’s provision in big ways. At the heart of it is how God uses it to benefit others.**

**4. Save the leftovers…**

**John 6:12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” 13 So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.**

**He commanded them to pick it up. Why is this significant? Was it to be there lunch tomorrow? Maybe…**

**Because - God requires us to use what we have been given, wisely**

**Don’t let it sit around get wasted or thrown out.**

**Don’t pray for more if you’re not being a good steward of what you have been given.**

**Jesus generously provided, but He doesn’t waste anything.**

**Jesus could have just left it behind or thrown out, but He didn’t. He is teaching that wastefulness didn’t glorify the God of all provision.**

**You see - at the heart of wastefulness is a lack of thankfulness –**

**It is a carelessness towards what God has provided.**

**Spoiler alert – next week we see another miracle – yet another one they had not seen before… but as we see they still did not get it - this amazing provision miracle did not settle the issue for them…**

**Confronted with something they were afraid - Mark 6:52 …for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.**

**We are remarkably similar – God provides and then we still get sacred the next time. I see God provide and I still get anxious the next time.**

**I just need to remember the baskets of biscuits and fish in my life.**

**It’s as if Jesus told them to pick up the leftovers (12 baskets) so they would each have a basket to remember that – Do not be afraid or worried - God of more than enough!**

**Pursue the provider – Give thanks for what you have – Give God whatever you have – then stand back and watch what He does!**

**\*\* BTW - If someone left that day hungry – it was only because they said no to Jesus or had too much pride to receive something from another person. It was supplied to them – but they ultimately had to receive and eat it.**

**Are you receiving the meal today – are you eating it?**