

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Finding Fullness in Jesus

The disciples were experiencing tremendous and *miraculous* things in Jesus's presence and ministry. Now, they were being invited to *participate* through going and proclaiming the kingdom – aided by his power over impure spirits. In short, *his* ministry was becoming *their* ministry. In these next passages, we begin to see the boldness of Jesus's identity and the people of Judea realizing that God was truly in their midst!

- What had the disciples just come back from doing? (see 6:7-13)
- How do you think the disciples felt after this mission? What did Jesus invite them to experience? (v.31)
- What is the significance of them having a “remote” place to be alone with Jesus? How might *we* experience this same invitation?
- How might their mission have resulted in such a large gathering? (v.33) Do you think they were prepared for this?
- Why was Jesus so moved to be with the people as they waited upon the shore? (v.33)
- Why were the disciples ready to send the people away? (v.36)
- Imagine Jesus told you to feed that many people (at least 5,000). What would be going through your mind?
- When Jesus came *walking* by the boat, they didn't recognize him. By almost passing them by, what might have been the significance of this event? (see Exodus 33:19-23)
- What is a “hardened heart” and why did the disciples have this kind of heart? (see Zechariah 7:12)
- **Apply it.** How have you sought to be completely satisfied by Jesus? Is there any part of your life that you do a “pretty decent job” of controlling well? What would it look like for you to give that (and everything else) to Jesus?

³⁰The apostles *gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And He *said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while.” (For there were many *people* coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.) ³²They went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves.

³³*The people* saw them going, and many recognized *them* and ran there together on foot from all the cities, and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things. ³⁵When it was already quite late, His disciples came to Him and said, “This place is desolate and it is already quite late; ³⁶send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” ³⁷But He answered them, “You give them *something* to eat!” And they *said to Him, “Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them *something* to eat?” ³⁸And He *said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go look!” And when they found out, they *said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹And He commanded them all to sit down by groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰They sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed *the food* and broke the loaves and He kept giving *them* to the disciples to set before them; and He divided up the two fish among them all. ⁴²They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³and they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces, and also of the fish. ⁴⁴There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.

⁴⁵Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of *Him* to the other side to Bethsaida, while He Himself was sending the crowd away. ⁴⁶After bidding them farewell, He left for the mountain to pray.

⁴⁷When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land. ⁴⁸Seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night He *came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them. ⁴⁹But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out; ⁵⁰for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and *said to them, “Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid.” ⁵¹Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, ⁵²for they had not gained any insight from the *incident of* the loaves, but their heart was hardened.