

Living with Jesus
First Church of Squantum
• **Rev. Doug Gray**
Monday Night Bible Study
• **January 30, 2017**

Jesus and the
Disciples Feed 20,000
Mark 6

I. Welcome, Introductions and Prayer

Teaser: What is the largest meal you have ever been part of? What was that like? How did you make sure everyone

was served? Did everyone get enough to eat?

II. Overview of Living with Jesus

- What would it have been like to “hang out” with Jesus? What were the things that were important to him?**

- **Fly-over of Jesus' life and teachings**

III. Things to Keep in Mind for Tonight

A. Who was Mark?

1. Traditionally, John Mark (teen-ager, the guy who slips out of his clothes in the garden?)

- Mother, Mary, owned the Upper Room? Where the early church met)**
- 2. Reflects Peter's teaching (if it's John Mark, he hung out with Peter)**
- 3. See Acts 12:12, Acts 12:25, and Acts 15:37. (Paul didn't think much**

of Mark because Mark left them in the middle of a mission.)

B. Who is Mark's audience? When?

1. Written for non-Jews (includes some translations for things that Jews wouldn't have understood)

- 2. Probably written for people who were undergoing persecution.**
- 3. Written between 55–70 AD (prob. the 1st Gospel written)**
- 4. Early-adopter of the codex (book) format.**

IV. A Few Notes on Mark 6:30-44

What comes before.

**Townspeople of
Nazareth struggle to
believe in Jesus'
abilities. Jesus sends
out the Twelve disciples
two-by-two to preach,**

**teach and heal. John
the Baptist is beheaded.
32 solitary (Gr. eremos)
can also mean deserted,
lonely, desolate,
wilderness. The
wilderness is where
takes people when he
wants to get closer to
someone and change**

their lives! (Exodus 16–20, Jeremiah 2:1–3, Hosea 2:14). Also in 6:35.

34 had compassion (Gr. splanchnizomai) gut-wrenching experience of compassion, moved with sympathy or pity. Requires action. (Note:

**It's the same word that
Luke uses to talk about
the father in the
Prodigal Son in Luke
15.)**

**35 shepherd. Rich Biblical
image of God's
relationship with us, and
how leaders should be**

**in relationship with
God's people.**

**37 two hundred denarii. A
denarius was a day's
wages for a day-laborer,
like our minimum wage.
Doing the math, that's
\$18,000 or more in MA.**

**39 green grass. Does this
hint at Psalm 23?**

43 twelve. Connects this with the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Symbolically God has fed the whole people of God, and everyone gets a doggie bag!

44 men. From the beginning, readers have understood that women

and children were there too. That's how we get to something like 20,000 people!

What comes after.

Jesus walks on water.

Jesus' ministry of teaching and healing continues and grows.

V. Questions for Discussion

1. Where have the disciples returned from? See vss. 7–13.

2. What do the disciples come back to? What does Jesus decide to do? Why do you think

Jesus decided to do that?

3. Jesus and the disciples try to get away on retreat, but what happens? Can you think of a time when you thought you were going to get a break...and then something happened?

What did that feel like for you?

4. What moves Jesus to compassion? What does Jesus choose to do about it? Are you surprised by Jesus' choice?

5. If Jesus had the miraculous powers we

**see happening thus far,
why doesn't Jesus
simply make the food
necessary to feed
everyone? Why ask what
they have? What do you
think that says about
how God likes to work?
6. List the verbs in verse
41. Do you hear echoes**

of another time in Jesus' life? (Hint: See Mark 15:22–23.)

7. The two miracle stories in this chapter (feeding the 5000 and walking on water) appear together in all four gospels. What do you think they tell us

**about who Jesus is and
how Jesus works?**

Conclusions

The Caring Leader:

**Jesus shows both his
great compassion and
his excellent leadership.**

**He is the one who
shepherds us to where**

we can be fed and nurtured.

The Partnership:
Jesus asks for what they have, and when they give it all, then they are blessed. For some reason, God prefers to want to partner with us human beings.

Something about being weak or uncertain or disadvantaged, puts us in just the right place for God to do great things.

The Mind-blowing Abundance: God's generosity and grace are crazy awesome! This story reminds us that

God can meet all our needs—physical, emotional, spiritual, etc.—until we are going to need baskets to take up the left-overs!

Schedule for “Living with Jesus” Bible Study

Date Topic Scripture

**2/6 Communion: Jesus
talks about the heart**

Matthew 15:1–20

2/13 Peter's Confession

Matthew 16:13–28