

## **Recap of 7/23/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 6:30-44):**

**1. Jesus wants to withdraw with the disciples to a remote place for fellowship and for physical and spiritual renewal.**

- “Most of us know the stories of Jesus walking on water and feeding thousands. But we easily gloss over the way Jesus sought solitude to build up His spiritual strength. Yes, even Jesus needed to rest and renew. In fact, Jesus established a rhythm; He engaged and then disengaged; He served and then withdrew. In those quiet times Jesus took care of His soul by connecting with God and drawing life from Him. If Jesus demonstrated the importance of withdrawing into solitude, how much more do we need to set aside times of respite in our lives?” (Men’s Devotional Bible)

-In a play on words of the King James translation, Vance Havner says that: “If you don’t come apart and rest, you will come apart.”

**2. The crowd follows Jesus and the disciples. He felt compassion for them because they were rudderless, “without guidance, nourishment, and protection.” -Jesus begins to teach them. He satisfies their spiritual hunger before He satisfies their physical hunger. The greatest hunger is the famine of the Word of God.**

**3. The crowd, with them all day, in this remote place, were in need of food. Jesus challenges the disciples to meet their need.**

- “The disciples had two suggestions for solving the problem [of feeding the enormous crowd]: either send the people away to find their own food or raise enough money to buy a bit of bread for everybody. As far as the disciples were concerned, they were in the wrong place at the wrong time, and nothing could be done! With that kind of approach, they would have made ideal committee members! Someone has defined a committee as a group of people who individually can do nothing and collectively decide that nothing can be done” (Wiersbe).

**4. Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish of a small boy’s lunch to miraculously feed this crowd of 5,000 men plus women and children. Jesus made abundant provision. This was a test for the disciples and a lesson to them of Jesus’ ability to supply abundantly all that they needed.**

### **5. Conclusion:**

We often do not experience abundance in our lives because we expect little from God, we are satisfied with the little we can do. We do not live by faith—we live by our wits. The disciples and us must be taught to think big—to expect much for we have a big God. “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God. (William Carey)”

-We must realize our inadequacy.

-We must take our eyes off the little we have and fix our eyes on the Great God we have.

-We must ask first, not what do I have/what can I do—but what can God do if I’ll trust Him.