



Empowering People to Change the World

Training for Reigning

Steve Holt

Mark 6:31-56 | Training for Reigning

Mark 6:31

And He said to them, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.¹

- Jesus has just sent these men out on a mission, two-by-two, preaching the kingdom, healing diseases, and casting out demons
- They are rejoicing but tired
- You will get tired. You will become exhausted in the work. At your job, you will become weary
- This was the MO of Jesus—working hard in seasons of unprecedented ministry opportunity and then pulling away to be alone
- All of us need breaks, rest. Rest is from God. God rested on the 7th day
- Sabbatical with the Lord.
- Your physical, emotional, spiritual make up requires rest for rejuvenation

But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him. And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.²

- All ministry should flow out of compassion. We can see the heart

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 6:31–32). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

² *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 6:33–34). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

of Jesus here. Jesus is long with a heart of compassion for his people

- What was it that moved Jesus? Sheep without shepherds. Sheep without protection and guidance. People are like sheep—easily led, easily misled, easily manipulated
- Ex. Ferguson riots this week after the grand jury refused to press charges against Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Michael Brown
- Jesus self description is of a shepherd, a good shepherd, and this is consistent with the Bible's OT view a "shepherd king"
- Ezekiel 34 captures the heart of God for his people and the calling of shepherds, pastors to lead the people of God
- I wonder if Jesus taught them from Ez 34?

Ezek 34:11

For thus says the Lord GOD: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains of Israel. There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down," says the Lord GOD. "I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment."³

- The heart of a shepherd king seeks out lost wayward sheep

³ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Eze 34:11–16). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- The heart of a shepherd king feeds the sheep
- The heart of a shepherd king binds up and heals the sheep
- This is the role of leaders who desire to lead like Jesus...

Vs. 35

When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, “This is a deserted place, and already the hour *is* late. Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat.” But He answered and said to 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 them *something* to eat?”⁴

- You give them something to eat! Jesus challenges all of us to feed the sheep he has placed in your life
- The problem we all have is looking through natural eyes! Natural thinking has killed many a miracle
- They look naturally at their resources and don't see how it can work!
- God is training us to reign with him—training us to have supernatural eyes of faith
- Replace natural, limited, human thinking to faith filled, supernatural eyes for looking at God's resources
- God will put you into his training camp, his boot camp, to build into you men and women who are called to reign with him

But He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they found out they said, “Five, and two fish.”

⁴ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 6:35–37). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave *them* to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among *them* all. ⁵

So they all ate and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men. ⁶

- Jesus always begins with what you have to offer. He doesn't multiply at first, he gazes at what we have
- But then, if you will let him have what you've got, he will bless it
- He wants all of you—he wants your weaknesses, your shame, and your strengths
- Often he divides before he multiplies. I think Jesus breaks us, divides us, slams us, before he builds us, multiplies us, and uses us
- Your life is to “be fruitful and multiply” but it is often ragged before it multiplies

Vs. 45 Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away. And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray. ⁷

- Jesus needed a rest, Jesus needed time alone with his father
- Intimacy is developed in the wilderness, in prayer

Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea;

⁵ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 6:38–41). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁶ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 6:42–44). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁷ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 6:45–46). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

and He was alone on the land. Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. 52 For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

- Though they had just seen Jesus provide for the needs of 5000 people, they can't apply his all sufficient power to a storm
- Fear is the devil's calling card!
- Fear to Satan is like faith to God. Jesus is looking for faith in the midst of your wilderness, your storm

Vs. 53 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there. And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was. 56 Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.⁸

- We are being invited into an epic adventure!
- This is Jesus ministry! We can do this stuff.
- Ex. God's got us all in a boat, a journey, a potential adventure and he's inviting us to join him

⁸ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mk 6:47-56). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- Will you join him? “They crossed over...they came to the land...they laid the sick”