

March 10th, 2019
Christ's Compassion and Power
Mark 6:30-56

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Mar 3 Duet. 11-13	Mar 7 Duet. 24-27
Mar 4 Duet. 14-16	Mar 8 Duet. 28-29
Mar 5 Duet. 17-20	Mar 9 Duet. 30-31
Mar 6 Deut. 21-23	Mar 10 Duet. 32-34

Lesson Introduction: *Our passage this week gives us a look into the compassion of Jesus. Amazingly, we also see His incredible power at work. Our Lord is perfectly tender and kind, and at the same time, He is ferociously powerful and untamable. C.S. Lewis portrays these characteristics of Christ through Aslan the Lion in his book, **The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe**. Susan, the little girl in the story, upon realizing that Aslan is a lion, becomes fearful of meeting him. She asks, "Is he... quite safe?" To which another character responds, "Who said anything about safe? Of course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you!" As we study this week, we will learn of Christ, the compassionate, powerful, King. He both tenderly invites us to rest in Him, while also powerfully working to reshape our lives. Praise God for the good, untamable, Lion of Judah!*

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **The Christian life is a life of sacrifice (V. 30-34)**
- **Christ has compassion for us, and acts as our loving shepherd (V. 34-37)**
- **Christ possesses unfathomable power (V. 35-56)**

Mark 6:30-56

30 The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. 31 And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. 33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 34 When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. 35 And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. 36 Send them away to go into the surrounding

countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." 37 But he answered 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 it to them to eat?" 38 And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." 39 Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. 41 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. 42 And they all ate and were satisfied. 43 And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. 44 And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

45 Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. 46 And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. 47 And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. 48 And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, 49 but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, 50 for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." 51 And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, 52 for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. 54 And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him 55 and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. 56 And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

Discussion Section 1: *The Sacrificial Life of Christ* (V. 30-34)

-What do verses 30-31 tell us about the way Christ and His followers spent their time?

-How does Jesus respond to the crowds while on His well-deserved (and much needed) respite?

-In what ways are we sometimes unwilling to sacrifice for the sake of the Kingdom of God?

Note: *These verses give us insight into the level of self-sacrifice that Jesus exemplified on earth, and the type of life that His disciples are called to live. Upon returning from their assignment given out by Jesus, Christ calls them to take rest, as they had been overwhelmed constantly by crowds, and were no doubt exhausted. The text tells us that they were so busy, in fact, that “they had no leisure even to eat.” It is important to point out before we dive into talking about the life of sacrifice that Jesus lived (and calls us to), that we see in this passage that rest is a God-ordained gift. We should not be too proud to find times where we can put the strains of labor aside and enjoy the blessing of rest that God modeled and commanded (**Genesis 2:2-3, Exodus 20:8-11, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**). Teaching on the call to sacrifice is not teaching against God’s good graces of rest.*

*That being said, we do see Christ, even when exhausted, sacrificing His rest, that He might teach the people about the Kingdom of God. In these verses we get a clear picture of what Christ’s life was all about. Namely, see that His life was a constant exercise of sacrifice. Jesus valued the souls of the people far more than He valued His rest or eating. Although there was nothing wrong with enjoying a day of rest with His disciples, Jesus was teaching us that we are called to live a life that puts our needs behind the needs of others, for the sake of the Kingdom (**Philippians 2:3-11**). In considering Christ’s example of sacrifice in these verses, and ultimately knowing that He laid down His life and became sin for us, may we be challenged. For the most part, we live a life of ease in America. As we consider these verses, may we be convicted, and consider how Christ is calling us to sacrifice for the sake of His glory.*

Discussion Section 2: The Compassionate Life of Christ (V. 34-37)

-Why did Jesus have compassion on the crowd?

-In what areas do you lack compassion for others?

-How might Christ’s compassion shape our compassion for others?

Note: *In these verses we get a glimpse of the compassion of Jesus, which fueled His life of sacrifice. Even as Christ and His disciples were in desperate need of rest, His compassion drove Him to sacrifice. The reason He had compassion on the crowds is because “they were like sheep without a shepherd.” Jesus recognized the disparity of the situation for these people and was moved to act in light of their lostness. In other words, Jesus was willing to lay down His preference for rest because He stopped to consider the needs of others and was moved to compassion.*

Jesus, the King of the universe, empathizes with the needs of people. Although He needs nothing, He recognizes and meets the needs of others. As always, He recognized that their primary need was of a spiritual nature, and thus, He taught them truth. We too were like sheep without a shepherd, and Christ had compassion for us, and died that we might have life! As we consider Christ’s compassion, may we too be filled with compassion for the lost around us, and then work out that compassion through sacrifice.

Discussion Section 3: The Powerful Life of Christ (V. 14-29)

-In what ways do these verses highlight the extraordinary abundance of Jesus’ power?

-Why is it important that we grasp both the tender compassion and the ferocious power of Jesus?

Note: *This passage closes with 3 amazing examples of Christ’s unstoppable, untamable power! He not only feeds a massive group (likely 20,000 + with the inclusion of women and children) but has 12 baskets of leftovers. He not only walks on water but calms a rushing wind with His presence. He not only heals many who are sick but heals them by the fringe of His garment! What we see in this passage is that Jesus is not only the compassionate, sacrificial Lamb, but also the powerful Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5-6)! The miracles in these verses teach us of the overwhelming transformative power of Christ. When we come to Him, we cannot expect to be coddled. Although He is compassionate, He is also ferocious. He will not leave us the same as we were before we met Him. He will do exceedingly more in our lives than we can imagine. He will call us to places we would never consider going, He will lead us to sacrifice our lives for His sake, and He will perfect us in glory! As C.S. Lewis put it, “Of course He isn’t safe. But He’s good. He’s the King, I tell you!”*