

## Where Is Your Trust?

*Think Carefully - Choose One!*

- In Your Strength
- In Your Job
- In Your Money
- In Your Pension
- In Your Possessions
- In Your Goodness
- In Your Jesus

Text: Mark 6:30-44 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: The main story of today's gospel reading is Jesus' feeding of the 5,000, **but this is the more important question** – *for His disciples back then and for us today:* **Where is YOUR trust?**

Two weeks ago, we read that Jesus ✨sent His twelve disciples out in pairs to teach and ✨gave them authority over demons. Now, as we return to [Mark chapter 6](#), those same men – *now being called apostles* – have returned to Jesus.

1. **Reporting:** <sup>30</sup> **The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught.** // Jesus prepared the twelve and sent them out. What happened? **God** worked through them to ✨cast out demons and ✨heal the sick! Then, **by the Holy Spirit**, people 😊repented and 😊believed in Jesus! The apostles were excited to tell, and Jesus was happy to listen!

2. **Planning to Rest:** <sup>31</sup> And [Jesus] said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a secluded place [*Bethsaida (Luke 9:10), on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee*] and rest a while.” (For there were many *people* coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.) <sup>32</sup> They went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> The people saw them going, and many recognized *them* and ran there together on foot from all the cities [*to that secluded place*], and got there ahead of them. // Jesus understood about being tired. In **Matthew 8**, Jesus healed ♦ a leper, ♦ the servant of a centurion, and ♦ Peter’s mother-in-law, then He ♦ cast out many demons and ♦ healed all who were sick, then, while crossing the Sea of Galilee by boat, *He was very tired and fell asleep (1-24)*. **Therefore**, Jesus tried to get the twelve to a place of rest. Jesus could have done anything, but, while on earth (in His state of humiliation), He did not ***always*** or ***fully*** use His divine powers.
3. **Sincere Concern:** <sup>34</sup> When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion [*sincere concern*] for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.
- a. Think About Sheep: They depend on their shepherd to ♦ protect them and ♦ feed them, ***BUT*** the teachers of Jesus’ time were doing neither. So, rather than rest, Jesus taught them!
- b. Are You Open to Learn? Consider these questions:
- Do you have a desire to grow up in God’s word?
  - Do you want your beliefs to agree with the Bible?
  - Do you want to speak and live to God’s glory?

iv. Do you want to be more thoroughly equipped to love God and your neighbor?

4. **Desolate and Late:** <sup>35</sup> When it was already quite late, His disciples came to [Jesus] and said, “This place is desolate and it is already quite late; <sup>36</sup> send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” <sup>37</sup> But He answered them, “You give them *something* to eat!” And they said to Him, “Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii [the amount a laborer would earn for working 200 days] on bread and give them *something* to eat?” // Those words help us to understand the following:
- The place was desolate – *no Giant Eagle nearby.*
  - The crowd was large – *because of the large amount needed to purchase food for them: **Then:** 200 denarii; **Today:** \$40,000 (\$25/hour x 8 hours/day x 200 days).*
5. **Jesus’ Abundance:** <sup>38</sup> And He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go look!” And when they found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” <sup>39</sup> And He commanded them all to sit down by groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> They sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. <sup>41</sup> And 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. <sup>42</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, <sup>43</sup> and they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces, and also of the fish. <sup>44</sup> There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.

- a. Five Loaves and Two Fish: Using their physical eyes, *that's all they saw*. They forgot that “...**nothing will be impossible with God**” (Luke 1:37).
- b. Groups of 100 and Groups of 50: We know from [Matthew 14](#) that there were about 5,000 men, *plus women and children*. Let's say the total was 20,000, **and half the groups were 100 and half were 50**. **So, 100 groups of 100 people and 200 groups of 50 people!**
- c. Jesus Gave the Glory to God: Jesus didn't say, “Look at Me!” Instead, He looked toward His Father in heaven! *Let us also give God all the glory!*
- d. They were All Satisfied: They were certainly hungry – since ▶they ran to meet Jesus at the secluded place, ▶they heard Jesus teach them many things, and ▶the time was quite late. But amazingly, *they all ate until their hunger was satisfied!*
- e. One Basket for Each of the 12: For the 12 who thought feeding the multitude was impossible, *they each received a basket full of broken pieces*. Jesus wanted them ▶to not worry, ▶to trust in Him for everything, and ▶to share what they had received with others. Let us do the same!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Jesus, our source of ▶life, ▶daily needs, ▶forgiveness of sins, ▶eternal life, and ▶so much more, help us to trust You for everything, follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, and glorify God the Father in all we think, say, and do!

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