

Campfire Tales: Stories the Disciples Told: - When Hope is Needed

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

If you have time look up the parallel passages in Matthew, Luke and John

The first passage cites the disciples return from their adventures in the countryside and small towns – remember Jesus sent them out in Mark 6:7-12. The second is after the feeding of the 5000 and Jesus has crossed the Sea to Gennesaret.

Sandwiched between these two passages are the depictions of The Feeding of the 5000 and Jesus Walking on the Water.

At the close of Mark 6 there seems to be a lot of people wanting to come into contact with Jesus. It seems, more than when chapter 6 began and it was just the disciples and some of his family. Jesus was even being chastised by his hometown folks.

To use a mathematical illustration, was the expansion of Christ's ministry by addition or was it by multiplication, or was it exponential?

In verse 34 Jesus has compassion on the crowd of people seeking him out. Why are they seeking him and how does he perceive them?

In verse 30 Mark uses the word *apostles* for the second time (the first was Mark 3:14). What does the word apostles mean? How is it used here? If your Bible has footnotes, what does it say?

The general use of the term is to define or name The Twelve Disciples, but in the direct translation from Greek the word means ambassador, emissary, or messenger.

This gets in the weeds a little, but discuss the difference between being a disciple (one that learns) and a messenger (one who carries the authority of the one sending the message). Which role has more weight, the one learning or the one bringing the message? Which role would tend to be passive and which would be active?

Which role do you tend to take, the disciple or the messenger?

Pray for your role at FRC. Do you see this being a place of growth by addition, multiplication or exponentially? What role to you take – more active or more passive?