

Dec 2nd 2007: Mark 6: 30-44: "It's That time Of Year"

Last Thursday after.....thinking to myself--→If someone asked

What is the most chaotic.....rushed....busy.....Frantic time of the year.....Christmas

And yet.....as I thought about that.....realized.....**Wouldn't** want it any other way

Because Christmas.....gives so many opportunities for sharing.....

(Over at the school.....The Over 55's.....)

But I do also admit.....to looking around during this Christmas month

And seeing so many of you fantastic.....Absolutely up to your ears in ministry & wishing...make it

The Christmas hampers.....and the giving.....Baptist World Aid.....biscuits

The whole Carols Production.....Every Thursday.....Choir.....

Letterbox drop

The special events that each group produces

And I find myself praying.....Lord it's all so full on....ISN'T there an easier way

And then the Lord showed meMark's story of the feeding of the 5,000.

Look at Mark 6:30-33

"The Apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them."

Not exactly Christmas.....but just as hectic

The 12.....have done their job well in the villages....they return ready for some **R & R**

A quiet time to share and reflect**Just them and Jesus**

But it is so busy....that they haven't even got the time to eat

THANKFULLY

Jesus Himself knows their need for a break.....from all the pressure that ongoing contact....

He said to them: "***Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.***"

It is helpful.....to understand that in the Greek text.....quiet place is the word → **Desert**

Not necessarily meaning a Sahara.....or even a Nullabor.....**An uninhabited**...remote place

And every time.....**it is this same word that is used**

So (look at your Bibles).....**in v31 Jesus says**.....Come with me.....to an uninhabited
Then in v32.....same word..... "So they went away by themselves in....to an uninhabited place

- **The only problem**.....by the time they got there.....It was far from uninhabited
The news of His destination had spread.....
It was worse than an 18th birthday.....that had been broadcast over the mobile phone

People had run on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them

No wonder they had nothing with them to eat.....!! Heard the news.....got running

So when we read in v32

"So they went by themselves in a boat to an uninhabited (same word) place"

We only have to read next verse.....to see the sense of irony....accomplish the use of this word here

- **They went there because it was**.....But it definitely was not what they found !!

(I think Surprise parties are great.....But I have known some.....Missed out on)

- **That's how I reckon the disciples felt when they saw the crowds**

Jesus saw it so differently: v34

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began teaching them many things."

And of course.....His aim was not just to teach the crowd

He also wanted to teach His disciples.....About **Compassion**.....**Provision** for ministry

- **So He was ready**....when His disciples came to Him and said....→v35-36
"This is a remote place—(same Greek word...UNINHABITED) and it's already very late. Send the people away..."

Jesus saw things **so** differently.....and He wanted them to see things differently too....[Wants us]

Don't see the crowds as a burden.....But as an **opp**.....To show compassion.....

To visit their lives... practical way.....God's Love

- **You give them something to eat (v37)**

The disciples answer.....very close to ridiculing Jesus

To do that would cost a man's wages for 8 months

We would have to go miles from here to buy**They** could go home.....and come back

No said Jesus.....I'm not interested in what you don't have....

I want to know what you do have.....**Right** now.....right here.....GO AND SEE

• **And after** some searching they came back with 5 loaves.....and two fish

This they gave to Jesus.....**And look what He did with it**

He gave it back to them.....**And with it****THEY** gave food and love....to 5,000 men +

At the beginning.....all they wanted was time alone.....

But in the end.....they exp a joy filled ministry.....**that** they never ever forgot

(Max Lucado)

This Christmas.....the Lord has given us a wonderful opp.....to visit the lives.....with His love

To feed those who have a need.....**Physical.....Spiritual**

We have no great resources to do so

That's why it's so important to put what we do have....into His hands....*(Prayer time)*

Perhaps some.....already feeling a little weary....after a busy year

And there will be times for us.....When it all seems too much.....

And all we want.....Is to be alone with the Master.....and to let others wear themselves out

But the pathway of blessing.....is this pathway of ministry...

As long as.....at His direction.....In His strength

• **It's interesting to me**.....that the only result we read about.....**of** this amazing miracle

Is that 5,000 + were fed and satisfied.....**And the 12** were left with the clean up job

No stories of how this ministry impacted.....

That is so true.....for much of the ministry.....we will do as a church this Christmas

We probably will never know....the eternal results of the part we play

And when everything is done.....**we will be** the ones left with the clean up

But the blessing of joining Jesus ...in showing compassion....love..... **Telling** the Good news

Is Energizing..... irreplaceable.....and Eternal

