

The Gospel of Mark
A Caring Christ
Mark 6:30-44

A good portion of our society, the church included, is extremely benevolent. We want to help others and meet their needs on a daily basis, often looking for long-term solutions to their problems. The problem is that we are often overwhelmed when we realize that our resources are just too inadequate to meet the needs of the world. Does that mean we stop trying?

1. A caring Christ is moved with compassion.
2. A caring Christ is moved to action.
3. A caring Christ is moved to glorify God.

Where the disciples saw a problem, Jesus saw an opportunity. He saw a chance to glorify God. He saw a chance to demonstrate God's power and sufficiency for not just our spiritual sustenance but for our physical sustenance as well. When Jesus shows up, a desolate place becomes a place of plenty. That is true for us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. When we are in an emotionally desolate place because of the rigors of things like life, work, and relationships, invite Jesus into that place, into the situation, into that care or concern. He can make any desolate place a place of plenty. He can help us find satisfaction in any circumstance.

For further consideration:

What do you think was Jesus' purpose in having the disciples report about their mission? What benefit is there in sharing successes and failures with a group? Have there ever been times that you were so tired you seemed to have no compassion? Are peoples' felt needs sometimes different from what they really need? How do we meet the physical needs of people without turning our ministry into a "social gospel"? How do we advance the gospel of salvation without neglecting the physical needs of people?