

“Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.” Mark 6:34 NLT

## lectio // Mark 6:30-44

Mark tells us that they (disciples and Jesus) got away specifically because they were tired. The disciples had just returned from the ministry tour that Jesus had sent them on, but they also returned from losing a dear friend and forerunner of Jesus - John the Baptizer. Did you notice that Mark referred to them as “disciples” as he closed out one thought and opened with “apostles” in the next? That’s right, because Jesus had “sent” them out, they are now apostles, the sent ones. Everyone was intending to rest, but as Jesus had said before, it’s important to work while it is still daylight (referring to himself and the final darkness that is coming). And here Mark tells us why, the people were spiritually wandering without direction, Jesus had compassion. He was asking his apostles to lean in, to learn a little more that day. Also, remember that Jesus referred to “changes lives” and “ah ha” moments (woman at the well) as food that the team was not aware of. So, Mark writes, “he began to teach.” But what did he teach that was so riveting, so L O N G, that people would forget about eating? Was it his signature sermon, the beatitudes? Was it “blessed are they that” messages that give glimpses of God and hope for a future free of tyranny? Did he tell more stories that made people laugh, think or maybe even cry? We don’t know what he taught, but it was good enough and long enough to setup for another tangible miracle that the “sent ones” got to participate in. Thankfully it was just food replication and not 5000 mad naked men filled with demons (man in the tombs)! It still cracks me up, his team brings Jesus a problem and Jesus says, you’re the solution... go feed them. Yea, “I get to be a part of a miracle right in front of my eyes - wait, what did he say?” When people are wandering and wondering, maybe it’s not a bad idea to give them a glimpse of God and a glimpse of hope in the future that God’s got this!

## oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

Even though folks are tired from four months of virus threats, quarantine, instability of food supply and finances, I know (we) still need to work while it’s still daylight and teach those who are restless, wandering and wondering. You fed them that day in more ways than one. Can I do the same? Can I deliver glimpses of a good God and hope for a future free of viruses, injustice and culture of shaming?

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root