



Mark Sermon Series
To Be Used: Session 5: Sends
Potential Sermon Title: Supplied
Passage: Mark 6:33-44

Connection to Mark 6:1–7:23

Jesus sends us into the world as His disciples. As we go, we can trust Him to supply us with what we need so we can point others to Him.

Introduction/Opening

Here they come!

When the shopping center doors opened on Black Friday, eager customers poured in, anxious to get their hands on all the bargains they could find. And they kept coming, streaming in the door all day long. They had hardly celebrated Thanksgiving Day. Now, in the early hours of the next morning, they made their entrance.

Jesus had to deal with crowds. Once, when He saw the crowds coming His way, He told His disciples to go with Him to a quiet place to rest, but they didn't get that far. The people hungry for more of Him got in the way of the retreat He had planned. But instead of running away from them, He cared for them. In the process, He cared for His disciples too, teaching them a valuable lesson that they could put to good use once they went out to minister in His name.

The lesson can be useful to us in our day. The Great Commission doesn't have a statute of limitations. His call to go still stands, and the lesson He teaches us in this moment encourages us to know that we can trust Him.

Outline

1. The Lord's willingness (33-34)
 - a) Met by a crowd (33)

Jesus told the disciples to join Him in a quiet place. There He intended for them to rest. Perhaps the burden of teaching, preaching, and equipping His disciples had taken a toll on Him. Also, the death of John the Baptist had left Him sorrowful. But He never made it to the retreat setting. People came from everywhere to see and hear Him.
 - b) Moved with compassion (34)

When Jesus saw them and the needs they brought with them, His heart broke for them. His compassion prompted Him to meet them and to help them. He continues to be more than willing to meet people at the point of their need.

2. The disciples' helplessness (35-38)
 - a) The need appeared too big (35-36)

The people needed something to eat. They were hungry, and Jesus tasked the disciples with the challenge of meeting their need for food.
 - b) The resources appeared too small (37-38)

Of course, the disciples replied with "we can't" kinds of statements. A few loaves of bread and fish couldn't feed that many people. Their responses reflect our tendency to give up on meeting needs because we focus on the limits.

3. The Lord's faithfulness (39-44)
 - a) Blessing the resource (39-41)

Jesus shows us how He intends for us to use the resources we have so needs can be met. Notice that He blessed what was given. What Jesus did with the blessing reminds us of the saying that little is much if God is in it.
 - b) Blessing the crowd (42-44)

The crowd received a blessing too. They came to hear Jesus, but they never expected that He would bless them with a feast. As we reach out to others in His name, we continue to marvel at the blessings of His incredible faithfulness.

Conclusion

You may be a person who needs what only Christ can give. Turn to Him, and you will see for yourself that He's compassionate, willing to bless you as you give yourself to Him. You may be a believer who has given up on serving the Lord because you say that you have limited resources. This story prompts you to take Him at His word. Give Him what you have and watch Him use it in ways that you could never have imagined. If Jesus could feed thousands with a few fish and pieces of bread, think of what He could do with what you have!

Argile Smith is the pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Biloxi, Mississippi. A graduate of William Carey College (BA) and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv, PhD), he has also served as a theological educator and Baptist college administrator. He and his wife, Connie, have three grown sons, three remarkable daughters-in-law, and four fairly perfect grandchildren.