

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO  
**MARK**

*Week 19: The Good Shepherd*

Read Mark 6:30-44

### 1. Jesus Is A Caring And Compassionate Shepherd

- Read Mark 6:30-34 & John 10:10-16

In John 10, Jesus called himself the good “shepherd”. He had compassion on his disciples and the crowds that were following him, knowing that they needed him to lead them. As a shepherd, Jesus:

- I. Cares deeply for the sheep
- II. Looks after the needs of the sheep
- III. Knows the sheep
- IV. Sacrifices for the sheep
- V. Takes responsibility for the sheep

- ❖ Q: What images come to mind when we think of a shepherd looking after his sheep?
- ❖ Q: In what ways have you experienced Jesus as your good shepherd in the last year? (What has he protected you from, what has he corrected you on, where has he led you that has been for your good etc.)
- ❖ Q: This story shows that Jesus had compassion on his people when they are tired and need provision. Do you see Jesus this way? If not, what needs to change in your belief about him?

### 2. Jesus Is A Collaborative Shepherd

- Read Mark 6:35-38

Regardless of how much food they found, there was no way that there would be enough to feed the +/- 7000 people that were waiting, and yet Jesus still asked his disciples to go and see what was available. He could have done a miracle before he sent them to investigate but he had a purpose in getting them involved in caring for the crowd of people. From this story we learn that:

- I. Jesus wants to empower other shepherds to look after His sheep with him – He delights to include others in his work. In the church he calls elders and pastors to lead the congregation. He calls ordinary people into extraordinary purpose.
- II. We should never overlook the power of small resources – Jesus didn’t expect the disciples to provide, he expected them to bring what they had so that he could provide.
- III. Faith has to work itself out in activity – Faith isn’t just a feeling, it requires a response. Even though he miraculously multiplies the food, Jesus still made the disciples seat the people and fetch and distribute the food.

- ❖ Q: How do you think the disciples would have felt when Jesus asked them to go and check how much food was available?
- ❖ Q: Why do you think Jesus sent his disciples to see how much food they had to start with?
- ❖ Q: Why does our faith have to work itself out in activity? In what ways has God caused you to act on your faith recently?

### 3. Jesus Is The Complete Shepherd

Read Mark 6:39-44

Jesus didn’t just give the crowd measly scraps to eat but instead satisfied their hunger entirely. Many of us are surprised to read that in this story. We tend to feel that Jesus will not fully satisfy us and so we treat him as an addition to our lives rather than the centre of our lives.

- ❖ Q: Do we see Jesus as the one who can fully satisfy our hearts or do we have low expectations of what he can do in our lives?
- ❖ Q: What do you think faith-filled expectation of Jesus looks like? What does this story show us about Jesus that we can expect from him?

### 4. Our Response To The Good Shepherd

We need to make sure that we are being shepherded and that we seek to shepherd others.

- ❖ Q: As you submit to Jesus as your chief-shepherd, are you also submitted to your church elders who play the role of “under-shepherds”?
- ❖ Q: Are you being a shepherd by leading, feeding, loving and protecting others in your personal sphere of influence? (i.e. home, work etc.)

