

Following the Good News about Jesus, ICB 2011
The Gospel of Mark, Chapters 1-8
“For Further Reflection”
Manuscript Study
April 10 2011

From Mark 6:30-56

Title: The Breadth and Depth of Christ’s Compassion

Focus of Message from this Section

In this section of the good news about Jesus in the gospel of Mark, we saw that the compassion of Christ, our Chief Shepherd, is deeper, is wider, is longer, and is higher than anything or anyone else. Our compassion for others is limited; Christ’s compassion is infinite. In this section, we see the clear limits of the disciples’ compassion. We also see the extent to which Christ demonstrates his compassion not only for his disciples but for those “like sheep without a shepherd.”

As we considered the breadth and depth of Christ’s compassion, we see in this section that

- He leads his disciples into his rest (6:30-32)
- He sees the deepest needs of people (6:33-34)
- He involves his disciples in showing HIS care (6:35-44)
- He refuses to be wrongly exalted before his time (6:45-46)
- He moves the disciples to believe in him more firmly (6:47-52)
- He works with people at their spiritual starting point, moving them to see more of him (6:53-56)

For Further Reflection

1. Look carefully at the limits of the disciples’ compassion in this section. How do they display these limits? What are ways you can relate to them?
2. Read Ezekiel 34 and consider ways in which Jesus displays that he is the Good Shepherd promised by the prophet.
3. What are ways that the words from John 6 related to what happens in Mark 6:45-46 explain the sudden actions of Jesus? We read in John, “After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, ‘Surely, this is the Prophet who is come into the world.’ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.”
4. What sides of the diamond of Christ’s compassion resonate with your own life at this time?
5. **What other good news about Jesus have you come to see from this section?**