



Journey through the Gospel of Mark: Deja Vu in a Desolate Place

July 23, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Sam Cassese

Scripture: Mark 8:1-13, Mark 6:30-44, Psalm 23

Sermon Overview: For the second time, Jesus miraculously fed thousands of people, and for the second time, the disciples did not understand. In the first instance, their fear in the midst of the storm revealed their lack of understanding. This time, the fact that they again asked Jesus how they would feed the people revealed their lack of understanding. Jesus had brought them to a place to do the same miracle so that they could understand His heart for His people, His infinite ability to reach His people, and who His people included.

Sermon Series Question:

1. What does Jesus' heart as a Good Shepherd look like?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. In Mark 8:2, Jesus called the disciples and said, "I have compassion for these people." While far from the center of Jewish culture, Jesus demonstrated the far-reaching heart of the Good Shepherd. We have an opportunity to extend the same compassion as the hands and feet of Jesus (John 13:14-15; 5:13). Is there anyone the Lord has put on your heart recently? How can you extend the heart of the Father to them? How have you already extended compassion to those in need (i.e. physical or spiritual need)?
2. Jesus is never a callous observer of your pain. In Mark 8, Jesus demonstrated His concern for the crowd's immediate needs (hunger), as well as for their future welfare (traveling a long distance home). When was there a time that the Lord's provision for your current need overflowed (leftover baskets) to meet a future need also? What needs can you currently bring to the Lord in your own life and in your community's?
3. Miracles have a specific purpose—they are intended to glorify God and reveal the heart of the Father. What was the result of Jesus' miracles in Mark 6 and Mark 8?

Digging Deeper:

1. The Good Shepherd continually seeks to lead, guide, and protect us. As a Good Shepherd, he cares for us and meets our needs. Read Psalm 23 and reflect on the characteristics of the Good Shepherd. How has the Lord been a good shepherd in your life? Read each line and see who the Good Shepherd is and what that implies for you. For example, “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.” What does that mean for you personally?
2. There are many names for God, but one of them is Shepherd. Research some other names for God. How do these names reveal the heart of the Father?

Practical Application:

- Where are you planted? In that place – where you live, where you work, where you play – with whom can you share your testimony? Tell them the story of how Jesus’ love and power grabbed hold of you.
- Download the NCC app or visit ncc.re/daily to listen to short, daily teachings M-F accompanying this series.
- Make a Bible reading plan and/or gratitude journal a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).