

**Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007: Mark 6: 30-44: "It's That time Of Year"**

**Last Thursday after**.....thinking to myself--→If someone asked

What is the most chaotic.....rushed....busy.....Frantic time of the year.....Christmas

**And yet**.....as I thought about that.....realized.....**Wouldn't** want it any other way

**Because Christmas**.....gives so many opportunities for sharing.....

*(Over at the school.....The Over 55's.....)*

**But I do also admit**.....to looking around during this Christmas month

And seeing so many of you fantastic.....Absolutely up to your ears in ministry & wishing...make it

**The Christmas hampers**.....and the giving.....Baptist World Aid.....biscuits

**The whole Carols Production**.....Every Thursday.....Choir.....

**Letterbox drop**

**The special events** that each group produces

**And I find myself praying**.....Lord it's all so full on....ISN'T there an easier way

**And then** the Lord showed me .....Mark's story of the feeding of the 5,000.

Look at Mark 6:30-33

***"The Apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them."***

**Not exactly Christmas**.....but just as hectic

**The 12**.....have done their job well in the villages....they return ready for some **R & R**

**A quiet time** to share and reflect .....**Just them and Jesus**

But it is so busy....that they haven't even got the time to eat

**THANKFULLY**

Jesus Himself knows their need for a break.....from all the pressure that ongoing contact....

He said to them: "***Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.***"

**It is helpful**.....to understand that in the Greek text.....quiet place is the word → **Desert**

Not necessarily meaning a Sahara.....or even a Nullabor.....**An uninhabited**...remote place

**And every time**.....**it is this same word that is used**

**So** (look at your Bibles).....**in v31 Jesus says**.....Come with me.....to an uninhabited  
**Then in v32**.....same word..... "So they went away by themselves in....to an uninhabited place

- **The only problem**.....by the time they got there.....It was far from uninhabited  
**The news** of His destination had spread.....  
It was worse than an 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.....that had been broadcast over the mobile phone

**People had run on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them**

No wonder they had nothing with them to eat.....!! Heard the news.....got running

### **So when we read in v32**

***"So they went by themselves in a boat to an uninhabited (same word) place"***

We only have to read next verse.....to see the sense of irony....accomplish the use of this word here

- **They went there because it was**.....But it definitely was not what they found !!

***(I think Surprise parties are great.....But I have known some.....Missed out on)***

- **That's how I reckon the disciples felt when they saw the crowds**

### **Jesus saw it so differently: v34**

***"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began teaching them many things."***

### **And of course.....His aim was not just to teach the crowd**

He also wanted to teach His disciples.....About **Compassion**.....**Provision** for ministry

- **So He was ready**....when His disciples came to Him and said....→v35-36  
***"This is a remote place—(same Greek word...UNINHABITED) and it's already very late. Send the people away..."***

**Jesus saw** things **so** differently.....and He wanted them to see things differently too....[Wants us]

**Don't see the crowds as a burden**.....But as an **opp**.....To show compassion.....

**To** visit their lives... practical way.....God's Love

- **You give them something to eat (v37)**

### **The disciples answer.....very close to ridiculing Jesus**

To do that would cost a man's wages for 8 months

We would have to go miles from here to buy ....**They** could go home.....and come back

**No said Jesus.....I'm not interested** in what you don't have....

I want to know what you do have.....**Right** now.....right here.....GO AND SEE

• **And after** some searching they came back with 5 loaves.....and two fish

**This** they gave to Jesus.....**And look what He did with it**

**He** gave it back to them.....**And with it** .....**THEY** gave food and love....to 5,000 men +

**At the beginning.....all they wanted was time alone.....**

**But in the end**.....they exp a joy filled ministry.....**that** they never ever forgot

*(Max Lucado)*

**This Christmas**.....the Lord has given us a wonderful opp.....to visit the lives.....with His love

**To feed** those who have a need.....**Physical.....Spiritual**

**We have no great resources to do so**

That's why it's so important to put what we do have....into His hands....*(Prayer time)*

**Perhaps some.....already feeling a little weary....after a busy year**

And there will be times for us.....When it all seems too much.....

And all we want.....Is to be alone with the Master.....and to let others wear themselves out

**But the pathway of blessing.....is this pathway of ministry...**

As long as.....at His direction.....In His strength

• **It's interesting to me**.....that the only result we read about.....**of** this amazing miracle

**Is that 5,000** + were fed and satisfied.....**And the 12** were left with the clean up job

**No stories of how this ministry impacted.....**

**That is so true**.....for much of the ministry.....we will do as a church this Christmas

**We probably will never know**....the eternal results of the part we play

**And when** everything is done.....**we will be** the ones left with the clean up

**But the blessing of joining Jesus** ...in showing compassion....love..... **Telling** the Good news

**Is Energizing..... irreplaceable.....and Eternal**

