

**April 26, 2026**

**Series:** MARK: The Life of a Disciple

**Title:** Compassion

**Passage:** Mark 6:30–44

**OPEN (SET THE TABLE)**

- When do you feel most depleted—physically, emotionally, or spiritually?
- How does that typically impact the way you respond to others?

**READ: Mark 6:30–44** aloud.

Encourage the group to listen for movement in the story.

**Mark 6:30-32 (The Need for Rest)**

- What do you notice about the disciples' condition as they return to Jesus?
- What does Jesus invite them into? What does that reveal about His care for them?
- Why is rest significant for those engaged in ministry or caring for others?

**Mark 6:33-34 (The Interruption)**

- What happens as they try to get away?
- How might you expect the disciples (or yourself) to respond in that moment?
- What is Jesus' actual response—and why is that surprising?
- What does “sheep without a shepherd” suggest about the crowd's condition?

**Mark 6:35-38 (Two Responses)**

- How do the disciples assess the situation? What solution do they offer?
- What factors seem to be shaping their response (time, resources, energy, etc.)?
- How does Jesus respond to them? What stands out about His command?
- Where do you see tension between what feels reasonable and what Jesus is asking?
- In what ways do you find yourself identifying with the disciples' response?

**Mark 6:39-44 (Participation in the Miracle)**

- What instructions does Jesus give before the miracle happens?
- What role do the disciples play in the process?
- What stands out to you about the outcome (not just enough—but abundance)?
- Why do you think Jesus involves the disciples, even after their reluctance?

**REFLECTION**

- Where in your life right now do you feel the tension between needing rest and responding to others?
- Who around you might be in need—someone you could easily overlook this week?

- What “limitations” are you most aware of (time, energy, resources)? How might those be shaping your response?
- What could it look like for you to offer what you *do* have instead of focusing on what you don’t?
- Which of these feels most needed for you this week:
  - Slowing down?
  - Paying attention?
  - Taking action?

**Challenge:**

- What is one specific, tangible act of compassion you will step into this week we can ask you about next time we get together?