

“Some Good News About Our Hunger” Mark 6:30-44 Shane Hatfield 9/29/20

Thank you for coming to worship with us this evening. My name is Shane Hatfield. If I haven't met you yet, I would love to meet you. It is my goal to get to know everybody. I won't be able to do it all at once, but hopefully over the weeks ahead we'll get to know each other. If you're a visitor, I want to meet you and get to know you. As Tyler alluded to earlier, I was just voted in as the senior pastor of Ethos. Thank you! I'm not full time yet. I'll still do my campus ministry job in Stillwater until the end of December and then I'll start January 1, but like he said I'll be coming over a couple times a month to preach and to meet with you all. I really just wanted to take this time to get to know you guys. I thought that would help me hit the ground running in January as well as give Steve a much-needed break from preaching. So if you're a visitor I would love to meet you, I'm not sure what we do for visitors yet, just come find me if you want to know more about the church, and I'll find somebody who does know because I don't really even know what to do yet, but I'm assuming there's a system for somebody you're going to email and they're going to send you some information. We'll figure it out together, right?

But tonight, we're going to study God's word. We're going to go through a passage in Mark together and it's interesting that we're on this passage because during the interview process the committee asked me, they said, 'What would you want to teach on if you become our pastor, what would you want to teach on for your first sermon?' I said, 'I don't know, maybe something on glorification.' Glorification is the process of us getting to heaven and being transformed as we're in heaven, so it's a really important theology for me and for us so I thought I would talk on something like that.

I don't know if this is my first official sermon but this passage that we're in tonight is a great look at Jesus' ministry and I actually think it's a great snapshot of what I hope my ministry would be with you all and what I hope our ministry would be to others, so I'm excited about preaching and teaching through this passage tonight. I'm praying that God would use it as a way for me to introduce myself to you guys and maybe as a way for us to begin to get a vision for how we want to minister to the people that come through those doors. So, let's pray together that God by the Holy Spirit would help us gather a vision for what He's doing in our lives and what we can do in the community.

Father in heaven, thank you so much for the opportunity to come and preach Your word to Your people. These are Your sheep. We are Your sheep who You love. You have called us. You have sought us. You have saved us. You have drawn us to Yourself. You have brought us here this evening to be with You so I pray now that as we hear from You that You would feed us through Your word. Father, we come anxious. We come depressed. We come frustrated. We come, some of us, in celebration. We come, some of us, in suffering. But no matter where we come from, we know that You are here to feed us exactly what we need. And so, we pray that You would do that now. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Whenever I got out of college, I began my career teaching and coaching for Union High School. I taught seventh grade science and coached eighth grade football and JV baseball and after a few years of doing that, but also doing ministry on the side with RiverOaks Presbyterian Church, they offered me the job as their youth minister. But before I did that, I had to come in and interview with the elders for the position. So, we came into the interview and one of the first questions they asked me was this, a very simple question, but very profound, they said, "Why do you want to be a pastor?" And the story that came to mind in that moment was this story right here when it says that Jesus looked on the crowd and He had compassion on them because they

were like sheep without a shepherd. And I said, you know, whenever I see people, especially lost people, I see them as sheep without a shepherd. My heart goes out to them. I have compassion for them. I want to help them. I want to teach them about Jesus who is the good shepherd. And the reason why I want to teach them about Jesus as the good shepherd is because Jesus is the only one who can satisfy the deepest longings of my heart and the deepest longings of their hearts as well. That's why I want to go into the ministry.

And tonight, as we look at this passage, that's simply what I want us to see this evening. That Jesus is the only one who can satisfy the deepest longings and the deepest desires of our hearts and that it's Jesus that we feed on every day and it's Jesus that we're going to offer other people as they come and worship with us. So, we're going to look at three simple things in this passage. We're going to see three ways that He satisfies the deepest longings of our hearts. Jesus knows us, Jesus leads us, and Jesus feeds us.

First, let's look at how Jesus knows us. This is Mark 6; we're going to start at verse 30.

“³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.”

Before this passage, Jesus had gathered his twelve disciples and He had sent them out on a mission to do ministry. He gave them all the instructions they needed, which was basically, ‘Hey don't take anything with you and rely on the generosity of everyone else. They're going to provide what you need. And I want you to go and cast out unclean demons and teach.’ And that's just what they did. So now, they've come back from their missionary efforts, they've returned to Jesus, and Jesus looks at them and says, ‘You know what you need? You need to come away with me.’ Now the interesting thing is, this was not a calm time. It wasn't like, okay, you've done your job, everything is calm and peaceful, everything is good, there's nothing going on now, we're just going to pull away. This was in the midst of more busyness! It says that people were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. They were busy! There was ministry to be done! There were spirits that needed to be cast out. There was teaching that needed to be given and yet, in the midst of all that busyness, Jesus peered into their hearts, He knew exactly what they needed, and He said, ‘I want you to come away and be with me.’ Let's be together.

And I look at that and just think, Jesus knows exactly what we need. He knows that we need to be with Him. He knows that we need to be with God. He knows that the busyness of serving Him and doing ministry does not take priority over the business of just being with Him. He knows that the busier His disciples become, the more important it is for them to be with Him. He knows that He doesn't just want us to be on mission for Him, He wants us to be with Him. Just let that sink in. The Lord of the universe, who has created and sustained all things, wants us to be with Him. That is His desire.

I think sometimes when we think about Jesus and we think about ministry we think of Him as this cold, cruel taskmaster that really just wants us to get out there and do the work of ministry, right? If we really loved Him, we would be ministering, we would be sharing the gospel all the time. If we really loved Him, we would give up every single thing that we own and just have nothing, and we would just give it all away and live totally destitute of anything good in life. If we really loved Him, then we would live cold, cruel, austere lives. And I think that this just shows that that's not true at all, that God knows exactly what we need. He knows that we

need to be with Him, that He is warm and kind and compassionate to us. That He loves us and wants to be with us. He knows that our hearts were made for Him. Like St. Augustine said, “Thou hast made us for thyself, oh Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.” God knows that the thing we need more than anything is to rest in Him and be with Him.

Not long ago, I was at a party with some of our friends in Stillwater, this was kind of before covid had hit in full force and we didn’t really know exactly how bad it was. We were still kind of getting together and doing some things. We were trying to social distance, but we were breaking all the rules. You’re supposed to laugh at that. And as we were there sitting around the fire talking, one woman was telling a story about how her parent’s church was just so unfriendly and so unloving to people that when visitors would come, they wouldn’t greet them at all, they wouldn’t care for them. And then another friend of ours just said, ‘Yeah, you know, that’s really sad because all Jesus really wants us to do is share the gospel with people. That’s really all we’re here for.’ And I felt so sad for her in that moment, I just looked at her and I said, ‘No!’ That is not what Jesus wants at all. Jesus wants us to receive His love and give His love to other people. We’re not just ministry robots that Jesus sends out and says, ‘Okay, I just want you to do my work all the time.’ We’re His beloved children. We’re God’s beloved children that Jesus cares for and loves and God want us to be with Him and He goes with us when we go out in ministry.

And as your future pastor, I just want to say that the first thing I want to do is I want to get to know you. I want to get to know your past, because it has shaped you and it has formed who you are today. I want to get to know your present, know what’s going on in your heart right now, what are the deepest desires and longings you have, because I want to enter into that, I want to be with you and I want to be with you in the future. I want to be with you when your babies are brought into this world. I want to come to the hospital and pray for those babies. I want to pray for you when you get job promotions and when you get laid off. I want to be with you whenever you get married. I want to be with you whenever you go to a funeral. I want to be with you whenever the day comes, and we have to send you or your child off to college. I want to know you and be with you as your pastor and I want us to know each other and care for each other because that’s what Jesus did. He was with His disciples. So, the first thing is that Jesus knows us.

The second thing that we see is that Jesus leads us. Look at verse 33:

“³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.”

Now the interesting thing about this phrase, ‘They were like sheep without a shepherd,’ is that most of the time it’s used in the Jewish context; it’s not used in a pastoral context. It’s not used like when we think about sheep without a shepherd, we think of Psalm 23, right? The Lord is my shepherd, very pastoral context. This phrase, sheep without a shepherd, is actually used in a military context several times in the Old Testament. It’s used as a figure of speech for leaders like Moses who led God’s people out of Egypt into the wilderness and was really sort of a military type leader for them. It’s used several times to describe Joshua’s ministry. Joshua took over after Moses and he led God’s people into the Promised Land. He led them on these military campaigns where they took over the Promised Land and were really supposed to take hold of the promises of God.

So, when the passage tells us that they were like sheep without a shepherd, what it's saying is, Jesus saw the crowd. He saw people without a purpose, without guidance, and without direction. He saw people who needed a leader and so Jesus came in and said, 'I'm your leader. Like Moses who led you out of Egypt, I am here to lead you into salvation. Like Joshua who was there to lead you into the Promised Land, I am here to lead you into glory.' And then it says that He did something interesting, that He began to teach them many things. It's interesting because He's a military leader, right? So, He's leading them in this conquest, but He doesn't give them guns, what does He do? He gives them teaching.

And Mark is interesting because Mark doesn't focus a lot on the teaching of Jesus, He focuses a lot on the person of Jesus. And so, here he doesn't give us that teaching, but later on He gives us a few teachings that I've got to think were in Jesus' head at this time. One is this, Jesus says, 'If anyone wants to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.' So, what kind of leader is Jesus? Jesus is a leader who suffers. Jesus is a leader who sacrifices. Jesus is a leader who calls His people to suffer and to sacrifice with Him so that they can experience life. And then later on, Jesus says, 'The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.' So again, Jesus is saying that He is a leader who came to serve. He is a leader unlike any other leader. Most leaders in the Roman culture would have been grasping for power. They would've been trying to climb up the power ladder to get as much power as they could so that they could control the world around them. And indeed, that's probably what the Jews thought about Jesus. They thought Jesus came in to be this military leader that would defeat Rome and free them. And Jesus said, 'No, no, no, that's not the type of leader I am. I'm a leader that suffers and sacrifices, because that's where true life and true joy are found.'

Chuck Feeney is a great example of this type of leadership. Chuck Feeney was a billionaire. He became a billionaire by setting up shops in airports called "Duty Free Shoppers," and they basically sold high-end luxury goods to rich travelers who would come through the airport and he became a billionaire at that. But Chuck knew that all that money was not going to make him happy, so this is what he decided to do forty years ago. He decided that he was going to try to give away all of his billions of dollars before he died, and two weeks ago he did it. It took him four decades, but he gave away eight billion dollars. He set aside two million dollars for he and his wife to live on, which is not a lot. He lived very frugally for the rest of his life and he gave away over 375,000% more than what he has now and all he got for it was a plaque that hangs up in his plain office that says, "Congratulations for giving away 8 billion dollars in philanthropic giving." He didn't get a pink Cadillac or anything like that. And when he was asked why he did it, he said, "I see little reason to delay giving when so much good can be achieved by supporting worthwhile causes. Besides, it's a lot more fun to give while you live than while you're dead." And not only did he give all that money away, but he led others like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet to try to give away billions and billions of dollars before they died.

Chuck Feeney was leading a rebellion, a revolution against our culture of consumerism and consumption and saying, 'No that's not the way to life. The way to life is to give this away. The way to life is through suffering and sacrifice not through selfishness and consumption.' And that's the kind of rebellion that Jesus is leading, and that's the kind of rebellion we get to be a part of, and that's the type of rebellion I have to lead, and I'm scared to death to do it because that means it's going to hurt. Jesus is leading people into a life of suffering and sacrifice because that's what brings life and joy to people and that, Lord willing, is what I will try to do as your pastor. I read a book once on pastoral leadership and he said, you know what, leaders are crazy, I

think it was Dan Allender, he said, leaders are crazy because what happens is there's a fire in the church, right? And everybody else runs from the fire, and what leaders have to do is they have to run into the fire and so, thanks for signing me up for that. No, I'm delighted to do it because I think that's where life is found and that's what I'm going to call us to do together as a church. Together, we're going to run into the fire together to help people, to love them, to care for them, because that's where true life and true joy are found. True life does not come from looking out for your own needs and desires first, it comes from looking for the needs and desires of those around us and thinking, 'How can I serve? How can I sacrifice? How can I lay down my life for yours?'

So, Jesus knows us, Jesus leads us, and lastly, Jesus feeds us. Look at Mark 6:35.

³⁵ And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶ Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ³⁷ But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii^[1] worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸ And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men."

I love that it says that they all ate and were satisfied. John in his gospel calls this a sign and a sign always points to something else and there are two ways this sign points. One is it points back again to Moses. Whenever Moses brought Israel out of Egypt and they got into the wilderness, what happened? They got hungry and they started grumbling. So, what did God do? God gave them manna. He fed them in the wilderness. Right here, these people, Jesus sees them, He sees a group of people that need purpose, they need direction, they need a leader. They think what they need is a physical, political king and Jesus says, 'No, no no. What you need is a spiritual Savior that can satisfy the deepest needs and longings of your heart. You need the bread of life. I am the bread of life. Let me give it to you.' And so, he takes this bread and these fish, and he feeds these people. He satisfies them here.

And then it points forward to what? The Lord's Supper. It's interesting, it says that Jesus took the food, He blessed the food, He broke it and He gave, and when you look at the passages that talk about the Lord's Supper, similar language is used where Jesus broke the bread, He blessed it, He gave it to His disciples. Paul takes the bread, He blesses it, He breaks it, He gives it to the disciples. Here in a moment, well ... we have these little cups with crackers and stuff in them, but we're going to imagine that I take the bread, I break it, I bless it, and I give it to you. What does that represent? It represents Jesus' broken body and shed blood on the cross. This meal is pointing forward to Jesus' crucifixion where on the cross Jesus will satisfy all of our spiritual needs through His broken body and His shed blood. Because our ultimate need, our ultimate desire, all of our ultimate longings, desires, and hopes are met in God. And what Jesus is doing on the cross is He is reuniting us with God because sin, this is us right here, this is God, sin separated us from God and because sin separated us from God there is that God-shaped hole

in our heart and sin and the debt of our sin separated us, and so when Jesus died on the cross He died so that sin could be removed and we could be satisfied in God again.

Jesus is leading a rebellion of people who satisfy themselves in God alone and not in this world. Christians and non-Christians both agree that this world cannot satisfy us. A Christian thinker, C.S. Lewis said, "If I find in my life desire that this world cannot satisfy, then the only logical answer is that I was made for another world." If you find in your heart a desire that this world cannot satisfy, then you must have been made for another world. You were made for a world with God where He satisfies you. Similarly, Aldous Huxley wrote this, Aldous Huxley wrote *Brave New World*, "Sooner or later one asks, even of Shakespeare, even of Beethoven, is that all?" Christian thinker, non-Christian thinker, both saying the same thing, that this world cannot satisfy us. If that's not enough, there's the great philosopher Tom Brady, millionaire, Superbowl champion, married to the supermodel wife. He wins three Superbowls, then in an interview they asked him, "How does it feel?" He says, "Honestly, I think there's got to be more than this." I know in my life I've experienced the same thing. Whether it's partying and pursuing pleasure or it's being religious and pursuing self-righteousness and Pharisee-ism, I've seen time and again that Jesus is the only thing that can satisfy me. That Jesus alone has the words of life.

And so, each week, or each time I teach, I want to pour out God's word. I want to feed Jesus to you because only He has the words of life, only He can satisfy you, only He can meet your deepest needs and desires. He wants to feed you and for some crazy reason He's going to use me, and you know what, here is what I need you to know on the front-end. It is impossible for me to feed you. It's impossible. The job that I have in Stillwater, it's a great job. It's an amazing job. I love it. But there's so many things that I have to do in that job: raise money, meet new students, disciple students who have been there, build relationships with donors, maintain relationships with church members, plan events. And then, I'm like a person, so I need to like have hobbies and spend time with my wife and my kids, all those things. There's been numerous times when I have just sat in my office and put my head in my hands and said, "This job is impossible. I can't do it." And now, I take this job, and Ricky tells me, this job is harder than that job. I can't do it.

What Jesus called these disciples to do is impossible. It is. But what Jesus commands, Jesus also provides. What He called the apostles to do is impossible. What He calls me to do is impossible. If it's going to happen, it's going to be up to Jesus. Jesus is the one who is going to feed you. I can't do it. It's impossible. And Jesus is going to be the one that feeds everyone who walks through those doors. Whoever worships with us, Jesus is going to have to feed them. But He can do it because He's the Lord of the universe and He can feed everyone. Everyone can be satisfied and there's even more food left over. I love that they add that the food is left over because if there was no food at the party, you wouldn't come, right? If you were late to the party and you knew there wasn't going to be food there, you wouldn't come, right? There's always going to be food at Jesus' party. There's always going to be bread here. There's always going to be more to go around.

And here's what's amazing about it, God is going to use us to serve it. Jesus could have handed out the food on His own. Jesus could have magically made the food appear to the people. I actually want to know how Jesus did the miracle. I would really love to have been there to see how that happened. But they give us this one detail, that Jesus gave the bread and the fish to the disciples and the disciples are the ones who actually carried it out. Jesus is going to give us His body and we're going to carry it out and feed it to other people. Not just me. Not just Steve. Not just the elders. Everyone in this room. We're going to come and feed on Jesus and we're going to

go out there and we're going to feed Him to others and He's the one who is going to nourish them. He's the one who's going to satisfy them and they're going to taste and see that the Lord is good, just like we get to taste and see that the Lord is good. Thank you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your pastor. It is a privilege. I'm excited about doing this together. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit would help us.

Father in heaven, what a kind, loving, powerful, beautiful Savior we have in Jesus. Thank You so much that He knows us, He leads us, and He feeds us. It's good news to our ears, because we need it. Please, please, please help us to feed on You and be satisfied in You each and every time we come together to worship you. Nourish our hearts, help us to taste and see that You are good and then give us the Holy Spirit-filled boldness and passion and willingness to go out and feed others. Father, we pray that You would invite more and more people here to worship Jesus with us, to feast with You, to feast on You. You alone have the words of eternal life. Help us to believe that. In Jesus' name, Amen.