

# MARK

Mark Wk 23  
Pastor Chip

## General:

- When have you experienced the tension between genuinely needing rest and knowing there was still something important that needed your attention?
- How can experiencing success in something God has called us to do affect the way we see ourselves (for better or for worse)?
- Pastor Chip said it is impossible to genuinely follow Jesus and never see fruit. Do you agree? What should we make of seasons when we are trying to be faithful but cannot see any obvious results?
- Jesus tells the disciples, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." What does this reveal about the value Jesus places on rest? Even in the middle of important Kingdom work?
- How do we reconcile Jesus' invitation to rest with His example of sacrificial compassion? How can we discern when God is calling us to give more and when He's calling us to step back?
- The disciples had just served, traveled, taught, and ministered extensively. Have you ever found yourself thinking, "I've already given enough," because of what you have already done for others or for God? What happens in us when legitimate tiredness becomes a sense of entitlement?
- How do you typically respond when something you were looking forward to gets interrupted by someone else's need?
- Jesus saw the crowd as "sheep without a shepherd." What do you think allowed Jesus to see needy people with compassion when the disciples may have been more likely to see another demand?
- By verse 36, the disciples' solution is essentially, "Send them away." What do you think about their response?

### **Take Home 1: The disciples had something to report to Jesus (Mk. 6:30)**

- When you think about your relationship with the church, do you more naturally evaluate what you are receiving or ask where you are participating in Jesus' mission? Why?
- Pastor Chip listed a few "American Church Consumer Questions". How easily can preferences about preaching, music, programs, convenience, or what a church offers begin to shape the way we evaluate church?
- "Good works are not the root of our salvation but they are the fruit." How does that distinction protect us from both trying to earn God's approval and becoming passive in our faith?

### **Take Home 2: There will be moments when compassion will and should interrupt our convenience (Mk 6:34)**

- Pastor Chip said, "The test of compassion isn't how we respond when we have something left to give, but how we respond when giving costs us something." What's the difference between compassion that flows out of convenience and compassion that flows out of genuine love?
- When has loving someone required you to give something you genuinely would have preferred to keep?
- We often talk about healthy boundaries, while Jesus also calls us to sacrifice. How do we discern the difference between a healthy boundary and using the language of boundaries to avoid costly love?

### **Take Home 3: Authentic Jesus ministry will gather people (Mk 6:31,33)**

- What kind of transformation should people encounter when they come into contact with a healthy church?
- What version of Jesus do people encounter through the way you live and treat them?

### **Take Home 4: Jesus calls us to be generous even when we feel like we don't have enough (Mk 6:35-36)**

- Think about the last month. When you felt short on time, money, energy, patience, or emotional capacity, did scarcity tend to make you more open-handed or more protective?
- Where are you currently measuring what is possible primarily by what *you* have available rather than by who Jesus is?
- When's the last time your relationship with Jesus cost you something?