

## Recharged to Charge (Mark 6:1-13,30-44)

Jesus gives us the privilege of serving him. However, if we do not pace ourselves, we can surely burn out. Therefore, it is imperative to set aside time to recharge and rest so that we can charge again. Ministry is a marathon and not a sprint. May we be available as we step out in faith to serve the Lord.

### INTRODUCTION

After much training, my friend entered a marathon race. The day of the race was cold and drizzling. There was some initial concern, but he figured once he got going and started sweating, he would be okay. Unfortunately, at the 10th mile, he caught a cramp. His muscle was tightening up because of the cold weather. In addition, he felt he needed to go use the restroom. There were porta-potties at different locations on the 26 mile race path. Once he entered the porta-potty, he noticed a big difference in temperature. It was warm inside. He started rubbing his legs and the cramp went away. He really wanted to finish the race, but was not sure how he was going to do it. Because he got some rest, he was reenergized. He headed back to the race. Every mile or so, he headed to the porta-potty to warm up, massage his leg, and get some rest. Then he was ready to go again. Because he stopped throughout the race to rest and warm up, he did finish the race.

In the ministry, it is like a marathon. The key to finishing well is to get recharged so that one can charge again. One needs to pace himself and stay faithful. Definitely, we do not want to drop out of the race. There will be times, when we feel tired and worn out. There will be times that we catch a cramp and want to quit. Too often we keep going and burnout. What we need to do is to recharge so that we can charge again. This reminds me of a passage that we will study today in Mark 6. There is a sermon outline in your bulletin that you can follow along.

#### A. The Malice of the Nazarenes: Jesus is rejected

##### 1. The Nazarenes were amazed at Jesus' wisdom and power

This passage took place during the early part of Jesus' ministry. He returned home to Nazareth with his disciples. On the Sabbath, he began to teach in the synagogue and the Nazarenes were amazed at Jesus' wisdom and power (6:2). Their initial excitement turned to skepticism. These were people that knew Jesus and had seen him grow up. They started asking themselves, "How did Jesus get so wise and powerful? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Jesus responded to their rejection with a proverb that a prophet is not appreciated at home. The people claimed that they knew him, but they only knew about him and did not really know him. Although Jesus had much power to perform miracles, He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. Christ's purpose was to perform miracles in the presence of faith.

##### 2. Jesus was amazed at the Nazarene's unbelief

The reason why few healings were performed is because of lack of faith. Jesus was amazed at their lack of faith or unbelief as recorded in Mk. 6:6a. When we do not believe, we will not see many miracles take place. One would think that since they were familiar with Jesus, that they would more likely to have faith in Him.

**APPLICATION:** Just because one is familiar with Jesus, it does not assure that a person really knows Him personally. Unfortunately, we find many that grew up in the church falling away from their faith after they leave for college because they have only known about Jesus and did not have a personal relationship with Him. There might be some of us here that have been a Christian for 20 or 30+ years. When was the last time you have seen God do something miraculous in your life? If there hasn't been much going on, then there might be an indication of lack of faith. Jesus would be amazed at us being with Him for such a long time, but have not stepped out in faith.

Jesus responded in amazement only two times. The first time is when Centurion had great faith in Jesus as recorded in Mt. 8:10. The captain said that Jesus just needed to say the word and his servant could be healed. Jesus did not need to go all the way there because the Centurion recognized Jesus' authority. Here in this passage, we see just the opposite response- the lack of faith in Jesus. Faith in God and great results go hand in hand. [The first section of the message talks about the Malice of the Nazarenes, where Jesus was rejected. Here in the second section, we have the Mission of the Twelve, where Jesus sends His disciples out two by two. Let us turn to Mk. 6:7ff. ]

## B. The Mission of the Twelve: Jesus sends His disciples out two by two (Mk. 6:7-13)

### 1. Jesus models for His disciples

This section marks a turning point in the Lord's ministry. Before this, only Jesus preached the gospel message, healed diseases, performed miracles, and confronted the hard-hearted unbelief of Israel's religious establishment. That changed with the authorization of the twelve apostles as official preachers. After Jesus taught and modeled for his disciples, He commissioned them to do likewise. Knowing His remaining time on earth was limited, Jesus strategically multiplied the extent of His ministry by sending the Twelve out.

### 2. Jesus sends and authorizes His disciples

The dozen men selected by Jesus had already spent countless hours accompanying and learning from Him. The Lord had earlier promised them that He would train them to be "fishers of men" ([Mark 1:17](#)). Now the time had come for them to do evangelism.

After Jesus instructed and modeled for the disciples, he sent them out to do likewise on a short term mission. They were paired up two by two and Jesus gave them authority over evil spirits. In verse 8-11, Jesus gave them instructions. Don't take anything with you except what you have. Trust the Lord, place your faith in Him and He will provide. God will guide you to the right person to take care of you. In verse 12, they were to go out and preach for the purpose of bringing people to repentance. They not only preached, but also healed: they drove out demons and anointed many sick people. All these miracles authenticated that the message that was presented was from God.

Through their mission, they likely experienced receptivity as well as rejection. There were people that embraced their teaching and there were people that dismissed their teaching. Their major responsibility was to be faithful in preaching the gospel. God would be responsible in converting the unsaved and changing their hearts.

## C. The Miracle of Jesus: Jesus feeds the 5,000

## 1. Recharge to charge

Upon returning from ministering, they reported back what they had done and taught. They were excited about what God had done through them. They were probably tired. They were so busy that they did not have time to eat. V.31, "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."

Ministry is 24/7. There is always something to do. I praise God for many of you, who are committed to serving the Lord. God values service, but He values more of our enjoyment of His presence. Jesus gives some wonderful advice that we need to pay attention to. "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." Too many of us are looking for results. God is much more interested in our hearts than works. We need to remember that we are in it for the long run. We want to finish strong and not burn out.

This reminds me of the passage on Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

In order for them to get some rest, they got into a boat and departed from the crowd. Although there were many ministry opportunities with the crowd, it was necessary to get away and rest. Ministry is like a marathon and not a sprint. We are human and we all need rest. We run a little while, rest and get recharged so that we can charge again. It is always good to step back and evaluate where we are before moving forward. Keeping charging forward without a break is problematic.

**APPLICATION:** It is advised to go to a solitary place to get some rest. Take a Sabbath off. Do something different from ministry. Get physical rest; take a nap. It is okay. Don't feel guilty about doing it. We also need spiritual refreshment. Allocate time to pray and study God's Word extensively. Journal and reflect; slow down and consult with God and seek direction from Him to make sure that you are going the right direction. For me, every six weeks or so, I take a personal retreat to spend extended time at a quiet place with Jesus and to rest in Him.

## 2. Reach out with compassion

Jesus found a creative way to get some rest by getting in a boat and heading into the sea. In v.33, the crowd anticipated that they would end up at the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Therefore, they took off on foot running. It is about 4-5 miles. When Jesus and his disciples arrived on the other side of the lake, they found the crowd waiting for them. One could see them as a nuisance or an opportunity to minister for the Lord.

Note that Jesus had compassion on them. Why? Jesus saw them as sheep without a shepherd. Sheep are the dumbest animals. Jesus wanted to provide direction for them. As a result, the first thing that Jesus did was to teach them. Time flew by so very quickly as the sun descended. Since they were at a remote place and it was beginning to get dark, the disciples anticipated problems. This crowd had been out most of the day and

probably were hungry. The disciples went to Jesus to recommend sending them away so that they could buy something to eat.

3. Respond in faith through obedience (vv. 37-38)

What was interesting was Jesus' reply, "You give them something to eat." This was a command from Jesus. That might seem to be an impossible task. How on earth were they going to feed all these people - some 5000 men? The disciples put on their thinking caps and figure that it would need eight months of man's wages to feed the crowd. And surely they didn't have that kind of money.

Jesus then sent them off to find food. In verse 38, Jesus said, "How many loaves do you have? He asked. "Go and see." It would be natural for the disciples to complain and not go. But they responded in faith through obedience to God although it did not appear that food was available. They demonstrated their faith in the Lord by being obedient. The disciples made themselves available to Christ and obeyed Him although it seemed to not make any sense.

They manage to find 5 loaves of bread and two fish. In the gospel of John 6:8-9, we noted that Andrew was the one that found a little boy that had 5 loaves and two fish. Could you imagine the conversation that Andrew had with this little boy, whose mother made him this small meal for the day. If you were the little boy, what would you do if Jesus asked if you would give up your lunch for Him? Many of us probably would not have given it, but would have kept it for ourselves. The boy was willing to give to Jesus whatever he had although it appeared that he had so little. Could you imagine what Andrew was thinking of when he brought Jesus 5 loaves and 2 fish? This is all that I could find?

We have personal responsibilities that are within our control that we should do. Those things that are out of our control, we are to turn it over to the Lord to take care of because God is sovereign. The disciples just obeyed Jesus and did what was asked of them although it seemed outrageous. They had faith in Jesus. If we only do our part and let God do His, we will see great results. Too often we play it safe. If we are asked to step out of our comfort zone, we do not want to because it is unfamiliar to us. But many times, God wants us to step out of our comfort zone. It will require faith in Him. We recognize that we cannot do it by ourselves. We need to rely on Him to make it happen. When the disciples turned over the resources that they had to Jesus, he reproduced it.

4. Reproduce resources in the hands of Jesus

We are all familiar with this miracle. Actually, this is the only miracle that is recorded in all four gospels. The number of times it is mentioned shows the importance of this miracle. Whatever we turn over to God, He can do wonders with it.

Before the miracle, Jesus directed the crowd to sit down in an orderly manner by getting in groups of hundreds and fifties. Jesus gave thanks as he looked up to heaven. What was going to happen would be an act from the Heavenly Father. Let's read v.41-42, "Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied."

Jesus broke the loaves and gave it to the disciples to distribute. The five loaves just kept reproducing. The disciples were probably amazed to see Jesus reproduce the meager resources right in front of them. Whatever is given into the hand of the Master, He can multiply it. The key is to be willing to give up what you have and believe that God can do something bigger with it. That requires faith. As a result, a miracle took place as Jesus fed the 5000. Note that there were 5000 men. If we count women and children, it could be as many as 20,000 people. That is a lot of people.

Those five loaves and two fish went a long way. Not only did all the people eat, but they ate and were satisfied. Some might even have had seconds or even third helpings. Not only did all the people eat and were satisfied, but there were leftovers. In verse 43, the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.

When we put resources in the hand of the master, he can reproduce it. The little boy didn't appear to give much to the Lord, but he gave what he had. The Lord took the small lunch to feed as many as 20,000 people.

What are you willing to give to the Lord today? Do we believe in faith that God can multiply what we give to Him? As we start a New Year tomorrow, may we learn to place more trust in the Lord by offering our time, talent, and treasure to Him and let Him reproduce it in front of us. Let us make ourselves available to the Lord. May we be willing to step out of our comfort zone and do that which God has called us to do.

May we remember that ministry is a marathon. God appreciates our service, but we need to get rest along the way so that we can be recharge. Then we can charge again. Some of us desperately need rest. May you rest and not feel guilty. Some of us need to get off our seat and get in the game. May we be available for the Lord. He can multiply what we give Him. It will be the most adventurous ride in our life.