

Scripture and Sermon Sunday, July 12, 2015

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed

Welcome to church! Is anyone willing to share with me why they are here this morning? Why you are taking time out of your day, your week, to be here?

- Hymns?
- Scripture?

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- Sermons?
- Community?

We are called to gather in worship to be received, rejuvenated and refreshed; to worship God and to share our stories with this community of faith. Once a week we have the unique opportunity to gather around Jesus for Jesus tells us that where two or three are gathered he will be there also.

In this morning's Gospel, we hear about the disciples gathering together after long journeys of preaching and teaching. They come together to share stories of their experiences and to find strength in community.

Jesus response to the disciples is inviting them to REST, take a break, eat and be nourished. What a great idea! Work hard and then rest. In today's society we might call that self-care which literally means taking care of one's self. An example would be allowing yourself to go to a movie, take a walk or engage in a hobby after a long week of work.

Jesus acknowledges our need for rest and yet so many of us refuse to rest. We work long hours and fill up all of our spare time with chores or activities. Rest ought to be taken guilt free.

Then what does Jesus do? He begins healing the people that have gathered. (Looks like Jesus may have been a work-a-holic!) Jesus is moved by the compassion he has for those who have gathered.

Jesus saw their hunger for God and for community. Jesus did not ask what was their faith background, Jesus did not

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look at the color of their skin, Jesus did not ask their sexual orientation or judge them on their apparent wealth or poverty. Jesus saw people coming to him with needs, he had compassion for them and he helped them.

We are all called to follow Jesus' example and go forth into the world to serve all of Go's people openly, lovingly and without judgement.