

# Christ Centred Leadership

Mark 6:31-44

## 1. Compassionate Leader vs. 31-37

Although Jesus and the Twelve were needing rest, Jesus modelled the kingdom of God's approach to those who are in need: to minister to their spiritual need through teaching and provide for the physical need that allows for opportunity to draw closer to God.

Jesus looks at the crowd with compassion because they are God's people in need of care, nurture, and faithful leadership. (1 Kings 22:17; 2 Chronicles 18:16; Psalm 95:7; Ezekiel 34)

Emphasizing a leader as the Shepherd of sheep was seen as a metaphor in Israel for a leader like Moses (Isaiah 63:11). Jesus sees a whole people without direction, without purpose, without a leader. Jesus utilizes the opportunity to teach the people.

## 2. Grace Focused Leader

Although the Twelve were not approaching the crowd the way Jesus had taught them or what they did on their initial mission given by Jesus (6:12-13), Jesus did not set them aside because of their failure but displayed grace to continue to disciple them; included them to be part of the blessing.

Lesson Experienced: Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

As a church, we are to model Jesus' approach to discipleship. Prayerfully displaying the needed grace so that those who yet to understand how minister to those in need, will still have the opportunity to learn and experience ministering to others with the compassionate approach.

**Summary:**

As a church we are called to follow Jesus' example of loving care for those in need. Just as Jesus prayerfully sought to lovingly shepherd the crowd through the disciples, He aims to lovingly bless the needy in our world through the church.

**Questions:**

- Do we ever find that doing things “for Jesus” is sometimes easier than spending time with Jesus? What are some of the things that we gain from spending time with Jesus that we miss if we simply spend all our time and effort serving Him?
- What can we learn and apply to our own lives from Jesus' attitude toward helping people?
- Who is God leading you to show compassion towards? In what specific way can you show compassion to another person?
- When Jesus reached the shore with His disciples, He saw the crowd and had compassion on all of them, not just a select few. Why is that such an important truth for each one of us? What impact should this truth have on each one of us and our efforts to serve/minister on behalf of Christ?