**In hundreds and in fifties** - A symmetrical seating arrangement, possibly 50 semi-circles of 100 people each, with the semi-circles one behind the other in ranks. Such an arrangement was familiar to the Jews during their festivals, and it made food distribution more convenient. (The MacArthur’s Study Bible, Page 1472)

When Jesus asked the disciples to provide food for over 5,000 people, they asked in astonishment if they should go and spend eight months’ wages on bread. How do you react when you are given an impossible task? A situation that seems impossible with human resources is simply an opportunity for God. The disciples did everything they could by gathering the available food and organizing the people into groups. Then, in answer to prayer, God did the impossible. When facing a seemly impossible task, do what you can and ask God to do the rest. He may see fit to make the impossible happen. (Life Application Bible, Page 1744)

**Blessed:** According to Jewish custom, at the beginning of the meal, the host or head of a family takes bread and blesses God for the meal. Beyond the actual blessing, Jesus relies upon the Father for the miracle that will meet the needs of the people. (Spirit Filled Life Bible, Page 1413)

**3. The Surplus of Food for the Disciples (Vs. 42-44).** *42 They all ate and were satisfied, 43 and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. 44 The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. (NIV)*

The twelve baskets full of fragments were small baskets commonly carried by travelers. It is possible to conclude that the leftovers gave each disciple enough food for his own use. When we put the will of God first, He will care for our needs (Matt. 6:33) and provide our daily bread. (The Nelson Study Bible, Page 1654)

**III. CLOSE –** God is no shorter than His Word. If He has promised you something, He can and will deliver it. Find it in the promise in the Word, stand on it by faith, and watch God bring it to pass according to His will for your life. Once you receive your blessing, don’t forget to thank Him.

# *RISING STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH*

***2800 E. 36th Street***

#### Tucson, AZ 85713

## *Sermon Notes*

## *March 15, 2015*

***Ministering to the Total Person***

***Mark 6:30-44***

**Sermon Notes:** [www.risingstarbaptist.org](http://www.risingstarbaptist.org)

**Podcasting:** [www.allewisministries.org](http://www.allewisministries.org)

***Vision: A Local Church with a Global Reach***

***Motto: One Mind, One Heartbeat, One Direction.***

## *Rev. Amos L. Lewis*

***Senior Pastor***

**Ministering to the Whole Person**

**Mark 6:30-44**

**I. INTRODUCTION –** It’s imperative we have a proper understanding of people. As human beings, we consist of body, soul, and spirit. So if we are going to do ministry and be effective, we must minister to the whole person. Some focus only on the spiritual part of people while others focus on only the emotional and physical part of people. However, we minister to three areas; (1) to people’s physical needs – body (Matt. 10:42; 25:35-36, 40), (2) emotional needs – soul (1 Thess. 5:14) and (3) spiritual needs – spirit (2 Cor. 5:18 and Col. 1:28-29). Ministering to the whole person isn’t an option in most African-American churches. We don’t have the luxury to focus only on the spiritual needs of people while families, schools, and communities are falling apart. Far too many people are fighting daily for survival so we can ignore their cries and still call ourselves Christians. Like the Jews of Jesus’ day, the synagogue was the school, community center, and place of worship. We must be interested in soul winning and social winning (Matt. 22:37-40).

**II. EXPOSITION OF THE TEXT –** As we come to the text, this miracle is the only miracle of Jesus recorded in all four gospels (Matt. 14:13-21; Luke 9:10-17 and John 6:5-13).

**A. The Report of the Disciples (V. 30).** *30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.*

Mark uses the word apostles here and in 3:14. Apostle means “one sent” as messenger, authorized agent, or missionary. The word became an official title for Jesus’ 12 disciples after his death and resurrection (Acts 1:25, 26; Ephesians 2:20). (Life Application Bible, Page 1744)

**B. The Rest for the Disciples (Vs. 31-32).** *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." 32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. 33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.*

**Why Not Rest A While?** When the Twelve returned from their preaching tour (Mark 6:7, 12, 30), Jesus took them aside for a bit of rest and relaxation (6:31). In doing so, He modeled a principle that many of us today could stand to practice more—the principle of rest. (The Word in Life Study Bible, Page 1726)

**C. The Reaction of Jesus (Vs. 34-35).** *34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. 35 By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late.*

**Compassion: Love for People Moves Jesus to Lead** – Jesus’ leadership was empowered not by a sense of duty or obligation, or by a desire to build an image, but by compassion. Great leaders, like Jesus, build a deep love for people that moves them to do far more than obligation could ever induce. Do you deeply love those you lead? (The Maxwell Leadership Bible, Page 1207)

**D. The Response of the Disciples (Vs. 36-44).**

**1. The Suggestion of the Disciples (V. 36).** *36 Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."*

**2. The Solution of Jesus (Vs. 37-41).** *37 But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?" 38 "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five — and two fish." 39 Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. 41 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.*

***Ps. 37:25*** *- I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. (NIV)*