

Sunday, July 18, 2021
8 Pentecost, Year B

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He 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. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As 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.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And 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.

OPEN

- After a busy day, how do you like to unwind?
- For what occasion would you have an open house party with a big spread?

DIG

- Why did Jesus decide to take the disciples away? What happened as soon as they left? How did the disciples and Jesus differ in the way they viewed the problem? How would you have felt about this intrusion?
- What emotions might have been expressed by the disciples in verse 37?
- What would you feel as a disciple when you gathered the leftovers? What was the purpose of doing so?
- How does this dinner party of Jesus compare to that of Herod (6:21-29)? What does this story imply about Jesus' identity? His mission?

REFLECT

- How has Jesus “fed” you when you’ve been spiritually hungry? When you sense that hunger, do you come searching for him, or do you usually try to “fill up” on something else first? If so what? Why?