

# The Gospel of Mark

## Lesson 14: Mark 6:30-44

### A crowd “follows” Jesus to the wilderness (vv. 30-34)

Matt. 14:13-14  
Luke 9:10-11  
John 6:1-4

- The apostles return from their evangelistic mission and report to Jesus
- He wants to give them time to rest (and eat!)
- The crowd follows and ends up getting to the destination first
- Rather than being angry, Jesus is moved with compassion for them
  - Consequently, Jesus begins to teach them
- Differences in the accounts:
  - Matthew – Seems to tie the move to John’s beheading; Jesus heals
  - Luke – near Bethsaida; Jesus heals and teaches
  - John – Passover is soon (explains the green grass); they go to a mountain

*Why do the gospel accounts differ?*

### Jesus feeds a multitude (vv. 35-44)

Matt. 14:15-21  
Luke 9:12-17  
John 6:5-15

- The crowd is bigger than the towns in the area
  - Procuring enough food for them would prove to be very difficult
- The disciples are a little snarky when Jesus tells them to feed the crowd
  - 200 denarii would be about eight months pay for a day laborer
  - John explains that Jesus is testing Philip (John 6:6)

*What test would Jesus be presenting to Philip?*

- Jesus assumes that there are some loaves of bread available (v.38)
  - Only John attributes these to a young boy
  - He also notes that these are barley loaves, which are small and flat

*What might motivate Jesus to seat the people in orderly groups?*

*What do you notice about what was left over after everyone was fed?*

- John alone notes the reaction of the people after the miracle
  - They connect Jesus with the Prophet (Deut. 18:15-19 – recall last week)
  - Jesus does not want them to try and make Him king, so he withdraws

*Why do you think all four gospel writers included this miracle?*