

## The Fickleness of Faith

### Mark 6:30-52

As God establishes our faith, it is a process of ups and downs. One moment we see clearly, and the next we miss it completely. Thankfully, God has given us personal experiences of His faithfulness, whether others or our own, that we might remember that God is deserving of our trust.

#### Jesus feeds the 5000

##### The lesson from the loaves

Mark 6:30-44

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they **reported** to Him all that they had done and taught.

<sup>31</sup> And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves **to a secluded place and rest a while.**" (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.)

<sup>32</sup> They went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> The people saw them going, and many recognized them and **ran there together on foot from all the cities**, and got there ahead of them.

<sup>34</sup> When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and **He felt compassion** for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and **He began to teach them** many things.

<sup>35</sup> When **it was already quite late, His disciples came to Him and said**, "This place is desolate and it is already quite late; <sup>36</sup> send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

<sup>37</sup> But He answered them, "You give them something to eat!" And they said to Him, "**Shall we go and spend** two hundred denarii on bread and give them something to eat?"

<sup>38</sup> And He said to them, "**How many loaves do you have? Go look!**" And when they found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." <sup>39</sup> And He commanded them all to sit down by groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> They sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties.

<sup>41</sup> And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He **blessed the food and broke the loaves** and He kept giving them to the disciples to set before them; and He divided up the two fish among them all.

<sup>42</sup> They all ate and were **satisfied**, <sup>43</sup> and they picked up **twelve full baskets** of the broken pieces, and also of the fish. <sup>44</sup> There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.

#### Jesus walks on water

##### The lesson from the waves

Mark 6:45-52

<sup>45</sup> Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side to Bethsaida, while He Himself was sending the crowd away. <sup>46</sup> After bidding them farewell, He left for the mountain to pray.

<sup>47</sup> When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land.

<sup>48</sup> Seeing them straining at the oars, for the **wind was against them**, at about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea; and **He intended to pass by them**.

<sup>49</sup> But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out; <sup>50</sup> for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, **“Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid.”**

<sup>51</sup> Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished,

<sup>52</sup> **for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.**

#### **Lessons for us**

- Reflect and remember
- Share your story