

Mark 6: 53-56

53 When 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 market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Commentary: Sometimes it is time to give and sometimes it is time to receive. Once again, Jesus is mobbed by the crowds. They bring those who are sick as well as themselves. Many just want to touch his clothing. They have such faith in his power to heal. The disciples are not mentioned here. We have just left them off in a state of stubborn disbelief. They are called to receive but also to give. But without receiving like the crowds, they cannot give like Jesus.

Are you receiving as much as you are giving? Are you giving as much as you are receiving? Are you receiving through your giving? Whether you think about these questions in practical, material terms or whether you think about them in more spiritual terms in relation to God, you must realize that sometimes, it is more difficult to receive than to give. But only as you receive with deep humility and openness can you really give in a way that feeds another not only practically but spiritually.

In this season of Covid-19, what does it mean to give? How important is it to build in practices in your life to receive? As we're all thrown off in this radical shift of being and functioning, it is easy to get burnt out from everything and nothing... fear and stress and disorientation arise in all kinds of ways visible and hidden. We need to get grounded in this new situation... again and again, daily...

Prayer: Lord God, help me to realize how much I need to receive from you in a deeper way than I have been receiving. Help me to open up before you at a deeper level, holding nothing back from you, putting it all on the line. Only then will I have something divine to offer those around me – namely, Christ alive in me and living through me. Amen.