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# advance in the word – jesus and compassion ministries 12/17

JESUS AND COMPASSION MINISTRY

Mark 6:30-44

The disciples had been sent out for the first time to do ministry (See CONDITIONS FOR OUTREACH below). They came back to be held accountable by Jesus. They report and then Jesus leads them to a time of retreat but the crowd beats them to the place to which Jesus was leading them. Verse 34 says Jesus, felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So what does Jesus do? How does he meet their need? "He began to teach them many things." The last clause of verse 34 tells us Jesus' version of compassion ministry. First and foremost, the people needed to hear and be taught by Jesus - the Word of God. As you venture further into the story a crowd made up of at least 5,000 men were then given food in a miraculous way but it is almost a side issue in addressing the real need of the crowd. Compassion ministry without its central focus on teaching the word of God misses the mark ...(according to Mark 6:34). I can lavishly meet the needs of people in a multitude of ways but if the word of God was not central to the ministry it is not biblically compassionate.