

Thursday March 19 ~ Alone Time With Jesus ~ Mark 6:30-46

This famous passage where Jesus miraculously feeds five thousand with five loaves of bread and two fish has "bookends" that I had not noticed until now. In Mark 6:31, Jesus instructs His disciples to "come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." Soon after, they are bombarded by the crowd seeking Jesus and His teachings. Late in the day, Jesus and His disciples miraculously feed the masses. In Mark 6:46, Scripture tells us: "After leaving them, He went up on a mountainside to pray." Jesus' words and actions make me keenly aware that "alone time" with Jesus and time spent in prayer (two different things) are essential for us to be used by Him.

During this Lenten season, take time to just "be alone" with Jesus - you might just find that He is preparing you to be a part of His miracles - and don't forget to follow up with praise and thanksgiving and time spent in prayer.

Julie Speyer is the owner of Pure Bliss Spa and Shop in Madison. She is married to Steve. They have lived in Madison since 1999 and are proud parents of Annie and Jack.

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

³²So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

³⁵By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. ³⁶Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

³⁷But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages^[a]! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

³⁸"How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."

When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."

³⁹Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Jesus Walks on the Water

⁴⁵Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

Footnotes: [Mark 6:37](#) Greek *take two hundred denarii*