



July 22, 2018; Mk. 6: 30-34, 53-56 & Jer. 23: 1-6

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#### ENTERING THE SCENE:

The twelve have been sent out and we hear of John the Baptist's death. Herod thinks Jesus is John reincarnated and this causes him anxiety and fascination. Now the returning twelve burst on the scene with excited tales of healing and teaching. Jesus knows that they have not yet had a chance to integrate what they just have experienced, so he tries to get away for a debriefing time. No such luxury is to be theirs however. No quiet, no anonymity, not even something to eat. It is easy to see then why even the feeding of the crowd, and the walking on the water episode, just do not have a chance to sink in. We too, like they, are facing times where we are in effect sheep without shepherds. Where do you go to find enough quiet to reflect on the demands of the times?

#### Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**30** The apostles gathered around Jesus and **reported** to him all they had done and **taught**. **31** Then, 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**." **32** So they went away by themselves in a **boat** to a **solitary place**. **33** But many who saw them leaving **recognized** them and **ran on foot** from all the towns and got there ahead of them. **34** When 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.

*(The Revised Common Lectionary adds these verses\_*

**53** When they had **crossed** over, they landed at **Gennesaret** and **anchored** there. **54** As soon as they got out of the **boat**, people **recognized** Jesus. **55** They **ran** throughout that **whole region** and carried the **sick** on **mats** to wherever they heard he was. **56** And wherever he went--into villages, towns or countryside--they placed the **sick** in the **marketplaces**. They **begged** him to let them **touch** even the **edge** of his cloak, and all who **touched** him were **healed**.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** What happens to your faith life when you don't take the time to rest and reflect?

**PRAYER:** Good shepherd, like those in this reading today we are desperately needing someone who will listen to our fears and wounds. We have ever more ways to plead for help but are drowned out by so much screaming around us. Help us find our quiet place so that we can cross over to you and find the help we need. Amen