

The Authoritative Shepherd

Mark 6:30-56

<u>Overview</u>

Jesus has all authority

- Who can do such things? Only God
 - Reproduce food at will
 - Walk on Water
 - Heals the sick
- Jesus of the Bible has all authority over heaven and earth (Matt. 28.18)
- Miracles are pictures of the Kingdom that Jesus is preaching and ushering in

• Jesus is the Great Shepherd

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- o Jesus calls for rest amidst the busyness of ministry
 - Sees crowd and recognizes them as "sheep without a shepherd"
 - This is more shocking than we first realize due to their having plenty of teachers
 - Text tells us Jesus has compassion on a spiritually hungry people that have no direction
- Jesus is primarily interested in their spiritual need by his teaching them
 - But he also cares for their physical needs by reproducing food
- \circ $\,$ Jesus as Great Shepherd fulfills prophecy of God coming down and seeking out lost himself
 - Ezekiel 34
- Believe in Divinity of Jesus
 - Disciples have trouble "putting together" Jesus after seeing Him walk on water and consider the loaves
 - This was due to a hardened heart
 - o In Mark 8.19 Jesus tries to help them see His divinity and the need for them to see that

<u>Questions</u>

- 1. Why is it important the author is going out of his way to show you how authoritative Christ is?
- 2. Why was Jesus so "compassionate" towards those "sheep?"
- 3. What does it say about the God that would tell us that He would come & seek, bind, strengthen the sheep?
- 4. How did these "sheep" lose their "shepherd?"
- 5. How can we be a church of compassion to those who are seeking answers yet have no shepherd?
- 6. Discuss the hardness of heart in the disciples and relate to them in your personal life?