

## Above & Beyond

### Mark 6:30-44

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> 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.”

<sup>32</sup> So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup> But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> 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.

<sup>35</sup> By 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. <sup>36</sup> Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

<sup>37</sup> But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

<sup>38</sup> “How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

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

<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. <sup>41</sup> Taking 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. <sup>42</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, <sup>43</sup> and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. <sup>44</sup> The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

ABOVE  
&  
BEYOND

The Title of today's sermon is

I want to begin with a question:

What do these pictures communicate?





Tired

These children are

Who in the story today was tired? (The Disciples)

Why were they tired?

(They had just come back from healing, casting our demons and preaching)

They weren't just tired.



Hungry

They were...

How do we know this?

v. 31 - There were so many people they didn't have the chance to eat.

So what do you think they did?

Jesus wanted to gather them together to talk but they couldn't.



So they got in a boat to sail to the other side.

When they got there...



Were there 500 people waiting for them?



Were there 1000 people waiting for them?



There were at least 5000 people waiting for them!

That was just the men!

There could have been double that if you count the women and children!

How do you think Jesus & the disciples felt?

Were they still tired?

Were they still hungry?

But what did Jesus do?

(He taught all day until it was late.)

Why do you think he did that?



And guess what? The disciples were really **Hungry** now!

How do you think they felt?

So what did they do? (They told him to send the people away. - v. 35-36)

Jesus answered, "Give them something to eat."

How do you think they felt?

Well we know their answer.

That would cost us a year's wages!

Let's work this out.

The average income of one person in Canada after taxes in 2010 is \$32,100.

Did you know that a happy meal costs about \$5.

With 10K people that's \$50k dollars!!!

And I don't even like happy meals!



The cheapest meal I know in Vancouver is a Hotdog and drink at Costco for \$2.

If we have to feed 10,000 that would still cost \$20K plus the tax!

Now, most guys I know aged 12-37 will eat at least 2 hot dogs.

That's \$30K! assuming that the kids and ladies are

happy with one.  
One year's wage.

Now, here's the catch - they didn't have cheap hotdogs or Costco in Jesus' time.



They had this: Basic lunch in Jesus' time.

What they were telling Jesus was that he was asking them to do the

Impossible!

Okay, they are tired and hungry and probably a little grumpy.  
Now Jesus asks them to do the impossible.

Well Jesus told them to go and look for some food and this is what they came



up with. Yup, basic lunch.

The Gospel of John tells us that this was actually a little boys lunch.

It was his happy meal.

It was everything he had and he offered it up to Jesus.

I bet that kid was tired and hungry too.

I don't know too many tired and hungry kids who would give up his lunch.

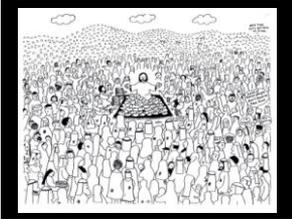
But this boy gave everything he had to Jesus.

I guess he just wanted to help.

Maybe he knew Jesus and his disciples were hungry.

Whatever the case he was willing to share what he had with Jesus.

Well, we all know what happens next.



Jesus prays, broke the loaves into pieces and fed every person until they were full.

In fact they had 12 baskets full left over.

How do you think they disciples felt now?

How do you think that little boy felt?

They are my favourite feelings when I'm with God and see what he does:



So, was there ever a time you felt like one of the disciples -  
 that what God was asking of you is impossible?  
 that you felt tired and hungry, maybe a little grumpy?  
 maybe to be nice to your brother or sister, mom or dad, or child?  
 a little reluctant?

Was there ever a time you met someone like that little boy?  
 Who gave away his lunch for someone else?  
 Was that little boy ever you?

When has God surprised, amazed, astonished, delighted you?

God isn't asking you to go above and beyond.  
 He's asking you to believe that he will go above and beyond  
 what you can ever ask or imagine.  
 And frankly, he does it all the time.