



## Introduction

We're starting a new series called *You First: Becoming the Change You Want to See*. It's easy to be an armchair quarterback when it comes to the state of the world. But, in this four-week series we're going to stop listening to our grumbling and start listening to the invitation from Jesus to lead the way. If we want to see change in the world, it's time to hear Jesus say, "You first." In this lesson, we learn that instead of pointing out what other people should do, we should lead the way in meeting people's needs.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to [www.journeyoffaith.com/messages](http://www.journeyoffaith.com/messages)

## Share Your Story

1. What stops you from being a leader sometimes, and instead pushes you into a kind of retreat-mode?
2. What goes through your mind when thinking of how the God of the universe knows you better than you know yourself, and still wants to use you for His glory?

## Hear God's Story

3. Read Mark 6:30-44 straight through. How would you summarize what actually happened here?
4. In this story we see that Jesus did great things with the little the disciples brought to Him. Why do you think Jesus chose to work through them rather than just doing it all Himself from start to finish?
5. Pastor Jason mentioned a few ways we can lead the way in meeting people's needs with the heart that we see in Mark 6:30-44. Review them below, then answer: What one do you struggle with the most, and what's one way your Life Group can support you as you grow in it?
  - Discover what motivates the people in your life and community.
  - Get involved personally in meeting people's needs.
  - Clarify expectations and commit to meeting those expectations.
  - Celebrate publicly, correct privately.
  - Collaborate with people.

## Create a New Story

6. Identify the motivations of the top 2-3 people on your team or sphere of influence this next week. How are you planning to begin this?

7. Make a move to be more helpful and productive this week. How can we progress in this while keeping God's heart at the center, and falling victim to a kind of works-based legalism?

### **Further Studies: Participating in God's Ancient Work in the World**

Renowned theologian Fulton Sheen (1895-1979) wrote a brief thought on the text we explored in this lesson (Mark 6:30-44) in his work *Life of Christ*. Read the excerpt, then move onto the questions below.

"As a grain of wheat slowly multiplies in the ground, so the bread and fishes, by a divinely hastened process, were multiplied until everyone had his fill. If he had given money, no one would have had his fill. Nature was to go as far as it could, then God supplied the rest. He ordered that the fragments be gathered up; they filled twelve baskets. In the reckoning of men there is always a deficit; in the arithmetic of God, there is always a surplus.

The effect of the miracle on the multitude was stupendous. There was no denying the fact that Christ had divine power; he showed it in multiplying the bread. It brought their minds back immediately to Moses, who had given their forefathers manna in the desert. And had not Moses said that he was the prefigure of Christ or the Messiah?

'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet' (Deut. 18:15).

If Moses had not authenticated or sealed himself by bread in the desert, was not this the one to whom Moses had pointed, since he too gave bread miraculously? Who, then, could be a better King for them to throw off the yoke of the Romans and make them free? Here was a Deliverer, greater than Joshua, and here were five thousand men ready to take up arms; here was a King greater than David or Solomon, who could rebel against the tyrants and set the people free. They had already acknowledged him as Prophet and Teacher; now they would proclaim him as King."

### **Discuss**

1. How does putting this event in the larger context of Scripture help you better understand the weight of Jesus' phrase "You feed them" in Mark 6:37?

### **For Parents: Repackaging for Youth**

2. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

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