

TITLE AND NUMBER: 37. Sheep without a Shepherd



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Mark 6:30-34; 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. 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." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognised them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 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. (v 30-34)

When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognised Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. 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 it were healed. (v 53-56)

LOOKING FURTHER: Mark 6: 35-44 and John 10:10-18

What does this Bible passage tell us?

In these passages, crowds of people come to see Jesus. So many come that Jesus and the apostles don't even have time to eat or rest. Instead of getting irritated or angry, Jesus has compassion for the people – He sees their needs and wants to help. He describes them as 'sheep without a shepherd'. They are like lost sheep, stumbling through life with no one to care for their needs and no one to nurture and guide them.

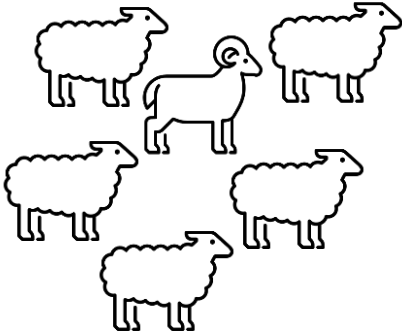
In many places in the Bible, Jesus is described as the Good Shepherd. Sheep need a good shepherd to lead them in the right direction, to provide for them, to protect them from danger, to find them when they are lost and bring them safely back to where they belong.

Jesus' response to the people is interesting. In verses 35-44, He meets the physical needs of the people by feeding them. Later, in verse 55, we see Jesus meeting the people's physical needs through healing those who are sick. But before this, verse 34 tells us, 'He began teaching them many things.' Jesus knows that people need the Word of God. Jesus said, "I come to bring life and life in all its abundance." He heals them, He feeds them, and He teaches them many things.

Reflections:

- What do you think Jesus taught the people?
- What areas of life do you need Jesus to help you with?
- What does it or would it mean for you to follow 'the Good Shepherd'?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



What have you seen God do in response to your prayers this week?

