

JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

Jesus Provides

Mark 6:34-44

THE POINT:
*Jesus cares and
meets the needs
in our lives.***THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE**

Many people relegate Jesus to solely the spiritual realm—as though the spiritual life is separate from all other areas of life. Jesus saves the whole person. He seeks to help us and sustain us in every area of every life—and we can trust Him to do so. As Jesus meets our every need, we can be a conduit of His care in the lives of others.

► **What was something given to you as a child that you didn't appreciate at the time?**

INTRO

I have a friend who delivers shoeboxes to children for Operation Christmas Child. On one occasion, he was delivering boxes to a crowd of children in Bosnia. The children had no way of knowing what was inside their boxes, but as they opened the boxes, they found coloring books, yo-yos, and dolls, among other things. My friend noticed a young boy off in a corner, and asked one of the other workers about him. "He's blind," the worker replied. My friend was apprehensive as he approached the boy with a box, because he didn't want this blind child to receive a coloring book and crayons. When the boy opened his box and felt the contents inside, we were stunned into silence. The boy pulled out a Walkman, the perfect gift for a child who can't see! Throughout His life and ministry, Jesus showed us that God knows exactly what we need—and He provides.

MARK 6:34

When Jesus stepped off the boat and saw the huge crowd, He felt deep compassion for them "because they were like sheep without a shepherd." Sheep need a shepherd to:

- Guide them to food and water
- Protect them from wolves that would eat them
- Keep them from wandering off

Spiritually speaking, Jesus knew these people had no shepherd, and they were like sheep in all these ways. Without a shepherd, we'll feed our hearts with things of the world, we'll expose ourselves to the dangers of sin, and we'll wander from the Truth. When Jesus saw the crowd, He saw their hearts---their spiritual condition---and He had great compassion because He knew they were lost. So even though He and the disciples were tired (v. 31), He took the time to lead them to the bread that would satisfy the hunger of their hearts.

► **Where do you see evidence of God's compassion in the world today?**

MARK 6:35-37

After Jesus had taught the crowd all day and the sun was getting low, the people naturally became hungry. They needed food, and the disciples' solution was the simplest one. Jesus had other plans. Because people are lost and far from Jesus, they often have a hard time accepting His message. In order to help the lost overcome their barriers to belief, God calls us to appeal to them on the most basic levels. This helps them to see that Jesus is the answer to all our needs.

► **How do we balance the importance of meeting physical needs and spiritual needs?**

MARK 6:38-44

Despite the disciples' hesitation, Jesus knew exactly what He was doing when He asked them to feed the crowd. Though Jesus asked them to do the impossible, their part was simple—find out how much food the people had. Jesus would do the rest. He taught many lessons that day. To the crowd, He demonstrated not only that He cared about their spiritual and physical needs, but also that He had answers. He had lessons for the disciples as well. Jesus wanted them to see that He's sufficient not only for the crowd, but personally for each of His disciples. Today, let's understand clearly what the loaves signify—Jesus is sufficient for each of us! Wherever Jesus has brought you, He will sustain you, for He is the only one who is able to fully provide for you.

► **Where do we have opportunities to participate in God's provision for others?**



LIVE IT OUT

▶ CHRIST

The Bible teaches that every good gift comes down from our Father in heaven for He is our provider (Jas. 1:17).

➤ **Make a list of good things Jesus has provided in your life:**

➤ **List a few things you need Him to provide now:**

Take a moment to pray right now and commit to praying every day this week for these things:

➤ **Thank Him for the blessings.**

➤ **Ask Him to provide for your needs.**

▶ COMMUNITY

Jesus' body on the earth today is the church (1 Cor. 12:27), and God uses the church to provide for the many needs of its members.

➤ **How has God used someone else recently to meet a need in your life?**

➤ **What would He have you do this week to meet another's needs?**

▶ CULTURE

In many ways, American culture teaches us to take care of ourselves and depend on no one. This is very different from what the Bible teaches—God alone provides every good thing in our lives.

In what ways do you trust in the culture, others, or even yourself to provide for your wants or desires?

To those who don't trust in Jesus, how can you serve as a witness as you display complete trust in His provision?



BIBLE READING PLAN

▼
DAY 1
MARK 12:1-12

DAY 2
MARK 12:13-27

DAY 3
MARK 12:28-37

DAY 4
MARK 12:38-44

DAY 5
MARK 13:1-8

DAY 6
MARK 13:9-23

DAY 7
MARK 13:24-37