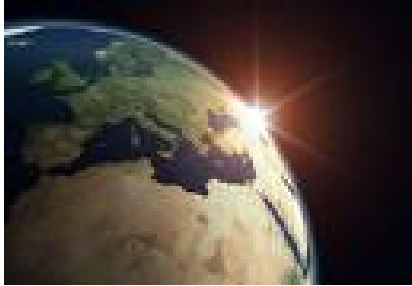


January 10, 2010
Mark 6:30-44

The Good News: A Sermon Series through the Gospel of Mark
The Good News of a Savior with Compassion
Rev John Sowers

There's Good News for the world . . .



... a Savior with Compassion

When Jesus landed and saw the crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

Mark 6:34

What post-holiday feelings are you experiencing?

READ Mark 6:30-44

Re-read verses 30-33. Notice how Jesus and the disciples could not get away from the needy crowd.

In what ways are you overwhelmed by needs that you can't seem to escape?

Note in verse 34 that Jesus responds to the crowd with compassion. What does it mean to you that Jesus responds with compassion?

How would you describe the ways the disciples respond to the crowd?

In verse 37 Jesus tells the disciples to feed the crowd. What thoughts and feelings get stirred up in you when you know God is asking you to do something you feel you don't have the resources to do?

Knowing that God IS asking you to meet needs beyond your resources consider these questions:

1. What specific needs seem to tug at your heart more than others?
2. What excuses seem to keep you from doing something?
3. If you could pool resources with others in your group or our community what special gift or strength could you contribute?
4. What keeps you relying on God's power rather than your limits?

Take a few minutes of silence to think about what has been discussed in your group. . .

Is there something God is asking you to do individually or as a group? Who are you being asked to feed? Where are you being called to show compassion?

Talk about this. Make a plan to act.

PRAY TOGETHER!

Talk to God about the feelings and hopes you shared today.