

Three Temptations for the Disciples (and For Us)

1. It's tempting to see logic instead of love

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." – Mark 6:35

2. It's tempting to expect the world to deal with its own problems

"Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." – Mark 6:36

3. It's tempting to expect obedience to be miserable

But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

*They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"
– Mark 6:37*

Four Truths About Jesus to Cling To in 2009

1. We can expect Jesus to offer compassion

2. We can expect Jesus to work in ways we think are impossible

3. We can expect Jesus to give us what we need (but not always what we want)

4. We can expect Jesus to offer more!

Mark 6:30-44

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then, 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.”

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

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

³⁷But he answered, “You give them something to eat.”

They said to him, “That would take eight months of a man’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

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

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

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

Small Group Discussion Questions



1. What are some of the commercials you’ve seen in your life that stick out in your memory as funny or effective?
2. Have you ever bought something that never quite lived up to the hype of its marketing?
3. Have you ever been disappointed by another person? Are you willing to share about that?
4. Read Mark 6:30-44 and find some ways that Jesus exceeded the expectations of the disciples and the crowd.
5. How has Jesus exceeded your own expectations in your life?
6. How can we pray for you?