A SAVIOUR WHO CARES

 **DATE: 6/3/2018 ss**

**TEXT: Mark 6:30-34**

**INTRODUCTION**

Often, people have a faulty impression of just Who God is

Some people see God as being so Almighty that He has no time for people like you and I

Others see Him as resembling a doting old grandfather Who winks at sin and just kind of watches His creation with amusement to see what will happen next

Well, God is a high and holy God!

The Bible tells us He is **“*separate from sinners*”** in  **Heb. 7:26**

He’s not tempted with wickedness and does not participate in sin

He certainly does not wink at our sin and sit back as the universe does its own thing

He is a God Who is in control of all things at all times

But, like a doting grandfather, He is a God Who cares

It may surprise some to think about God being a caring God

He is often portrayed as a God of Wrath and Judgment

The Truth is … He is Just

But that is only one side of His character

At the same time, He is also a God of Love, Compassion and Intimacy

He is a God Who cares!

One reason He cares is because He knows what life is like

He knows this because He came to this world and lived among us for a time

God Almighty actually robed Himself in human flesh so that He might live among men and die on a cross for sinners

**Philippians 2:8 – *“And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”***

**John 1:1, 14 – *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with GOD, and the Word was GOD” “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth”***

While He was here, He endured more than His share of Pain, Poverty and Suffering

-- He knows what it is like to do Without

**Matthew 8:20 – *“And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; …***

***… but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head”***

-- He knows what it is like to be Rejected

**John 1:11 – *“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not”***

-- He knows what it is like to be hated

-- He knows what it is like to suffer pain

-- He knows what it is like to be hungry, thirsty and alone

-- He knows what it is like to die

Jesus walked through life and experienced what He did …

So that He might better help us in our time of need

**Hebrews 4:15 – *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”***

As we continue our study of Mark's Gospel today,

We come to a truly wonderful portion of Scripture

These verses tell us without a doubt that Jesus Cares

I want to point out two *groups* of people for whom the Lord cares (These are not the only ones)

I want to teach on ***“A Saviour Who Cares”***

As I do, I hope He will show You that He Cares, as well!

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at …

**I. THE “LABORING SERVANTS” – vs. 30-32**

The Saviour Cares about His Laboring Servant

We pick up now where we left off back in **v. 13**

In **vs. 14-29** we studied some important information about the Life and Death of John the Baptist and Herod

Now we are back to Jesus’ Ministry

Let’s look at …

**A. Their ‘Activity’ – v. 30**

***“And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told Him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught”***

Jesus sent the twelve disciples out to Preach, Teach and Heal

Their ministry had been an unqualified success and they now return to the Lord and tell Him all about their ministry in the surrounding villages

They are excited about all they have witnessed and about the doctrine they have been teaching

I can imagine them gathering around Him while they all try to talk at once

I’m sure it was an exciting time in the lives of these men

**1.** There really is no greater thrill in life than to serve the Lord

Especially when the blessings come!

When we stop to consider where we came from and how He saved us

Then, to think that He would allow us a small part in His kingdom work, is a blessing too great to comprehend

**2.** God’s Call to Serve

The Bible is clear; when the Lord saved us

He also had service in mind

**Ephesians 2:10 – *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which GOD hath before ordained that we should walk in them”***

When He saved us, He equipped us for a special place in His kingdom work

Not everyone has the same responsibilities

(except for soul winning)

**I Corinthians 12:6-7 – *“And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same GOD which worketh***

***… all in all” “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal”***

Our service to the Lord proves the reality of our salvation experience

**James 2:18 – *“Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works”***

**I John 1:7 – *“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin”***

**3.** It is a Wonderful Blessing to be busy for the Lord!

When we serve the Lord with the right heart we are lying up rewards in heaven

To be allowed to serve Him is a blessing

And, there are no small tasks in His kingdom

David had the right attitude

**Psalm 84:10 – *“For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my GOD, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness”***

What are you doing for Jesus right now?

What kind-of heart are you doing it with?

Some people say they can't serve the Lord because they don't have any training

Look at the disciples!

They were sent out with very little training and limited knowledge of the things of God

Don't wait until you know it all to do something for the Lord

Act on what you know and trust the Lord to teach you as you go

First, we see **Their ‘Activity’**

Then we see …

**B. The ‘Advice’ – vs. 31, 32**

***“And He said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat” “And they departed into a desert place by ship privately”***

When Jesus hears their report and sees their enthusiasm, He gives them some strange advice

A lot of people would have suggested that it was time to seize the moment

The people were listening, the crowds were coming

It seemed like the perfect time to send the disciples out

… again, to go and preach and heal and increase the crowds

Jesus, on the other hand, calls the disciples away for a time of R & R

I think there are several reasons why the Lord did this with His men

I think these reasons are still valid today

Let’s look at them …

**1.** The physical stress of ministry is enormous

When the disciples returned to Jesus, they found Him surrounded by crowds of needy people

The people were coming and going at such a frenzied rate that Jesus and His men did not even have time to eat a meal

That kind of constant stress would wear anyone out

Jesus knew that His men needed to rest their bodies if they were going to be as effective as they could be in their work for Him

So, He takes them across the lake so that they could be reenergized

There is a word here for you and I as well

God did not design our bodies to go like we force them to

He never intended for us to run through life with a cell phone to our ear, a day planner in our hand and a schedule so full of activity that no one could possibly get it all done

God expects us to take the time our bodies need to rest

God wants us to serve Him, but He doesn’t want us to kill ourselves in the process!

We must take the time our bodies need to rest

**Humor:** Someone penned this poem - “*Mary had a little lamb. ‘Twas given to her to keep, But then it joined the local church, And died for lack of sleep”*

**2.** The danger of being lifted up in spiritual pride

If these men had been sent right back out and they had seen the same or greater results,

There was a danger that they might begin to think that they were something special

The truth was, they did nothing!

They were successful in the sense that Jesus was successful through them

All they did … was in His power and He did the work

It wasn't about them, it was all about Him!

So, Jesus removed them from the limelight for a little while to help them keep things in proper perspective

Again, there is a word here for us today

We must never come to the place where we think this thing is all about us

As a Preacher, when I preach a good message, I need to always deflect the Glory to Him!

The Teachers, when things go well in their class, they need to give Him the glory!

The Choir members, when they are on pitch and the Lord blesses the singing, give Him the glory

In the Nursery, when things go well, and when they don’t, still be sure to give God the Glory!

If we are not really careful, we can fall into the trap of thinking that it’s all about us

If we are not careful, we can become lifted up in pride and forget that anything good that comes from our lives comes from the hand of the Lord

The best we can produce of ourselves is Trash

**Isaiah 64:6 – *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away”***

But, if we will yield to the Lord, He can use us in wonderful ways

**Galatians 2:20 *– “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of GOD, who loved me, and gave Himself for me”***

He is the source of our strength,

**Philippians 4:13 – *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”***

And, He deserves all the glory

**Acts 17:28 – *“For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring”***

When we begin to think that the success of our life is a result of our own strength and ability

We are headed for a fall

**I Corinthians 10:12 – *“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”***

**Proverbs 16:18 – *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”***

All I am saying is that we must remember where the blessings of service come from

It isn't the preacher, the teacher or anyone else who wears a suit of flesh

Our blessings come from the Lord and He alone deserves all the glory!

Our Saviour Cares about …

**THE “LABORING SERVANTS”**

The second set of folks I want to look at are …

**II. THE “LOST SHEEP” – vs. 33,34 …**

Jesus has His men make their escape from the crowds,

But they did not slip away unnoticed

The people saw them leaving and recognized that the boat carried Jesus

The people ran around the shore of the lake and were waiting on Him when He arrived on the other side

It was about 4 miles across the lake by boat

On a windless day, it would have taken quite some time to make that trip

It was about ten miles around the shore of the lake

A fast walker could have made the trip faster than the boat

This is just what happened that day

When Jesus and His men neared the shore,

They saw that a large crowd was waiting to meet them

According to **v. 44**, this crowd may have numbered between 15,000 or 20,000 people!

Most people would have been angry if their plans for rest were interrupted by the crowds

Most people would have seen the crowds as an interruption and a nuisance

Some people would have just ignored the people and their needs

But Not Jesus!

The Bible tells us that Jesus **“*was moved with compassion toward them*”**

When you see a person with a need, there are several emotional responses you can have

Let me list them briefly …

* Apathy

 This word refers to an Absence of emotion

You see the need, but you do not care

You are unmoved by it

 There is a lot of apathy in our world today

It is a shame when it is found among Christians

* Sympathy

This word refers to a harmony of feeling

In other words, you see a need and you know how they feel because you have felt that way too

* Empathy

This word speaks of an emotion that is stronger than sympathy

When you empathize with someone it means that you hurt with them

It means that you share the pain they feel

* Compassion

The word compassion, as it is used in the Bible means

*To be moved inwardly; to yearn with tender mercy, affection, pity and empathy*

It refers to the deepest possible feelings

The phrase - **“*moved with compassion*”** literally means *to be moved in the* *inner organs*

It has the same idea as our modern expression …

*From the bottom of my heart*

Someone has defined Compassion as *Sympathy coupled with a strong desire to help*

Sympathy refers to *The capacity to share feelings, to enter into the same feelings, to feel the same thing*

So, Compassion is *sharing the feelings of others and possessing a desire to help them in their trouble*

When Jesus saw the people He was touched by their need and He was moved by a strong desire to meet their need

Let's consider the Lord's Compassion for these lost sheep

**A. The ‘Reason’ – vs. 34** (middle of the verse)

He ***“… was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd:”***

When Jesus looked at the people, He saw them as a flock of lost sheep

He was stirred by the vision of them as helpless lambs, with no one to care about them

Oh, they had their religious leaders

But, those men did not care about the people

The Pharisees, the Scribes and the Sadducees only cared about the people doing things their way

They wanted the people to march to their tune; …

…obey their rules and keep lining their pockets, so they could continue to live their lavish lifestyles

This kind of leadership is soundly condemned by God in **Ezekiel 34:1-10 …**

When the Jewish religious leaders looked at the people of Israel, all they saw was a people that existed to serve them

When Jesus saw the people of Israel, He saw them as they really were: lost sheep in need of a shepherd

The image of lost people as sheep is powerful

As you may know, sheep are about the dumbest animals on the planet

They have no sense of direction

They are also absolutely defenseless

There is no animal as needy and as dependent on human as the sheep

When Jesus refers to lost people as sheep, He is not trying to insult them, He is merely telling the truth!

**B. The ‘Reach’ – v. 34** (1st part of the verse)

***“And Jesus, when He came out, saw much people”***

As I read this verse I get the sense that while Jesus saw the crowd, He also saw much more

Jesus saw a huge group of people, but He also saw the individuals in that crowd

As He looked out at that throng of people, He saw every broken heart, every physical ailment, every emotional need, every spiritual problem;

-- He saw it all!

-- He saw the crippled child

-- He saw that abused wife

-- He saw the depressed father

-- He saw the rebellious teenager

Jesus looked at a crowd, but He saw the individual!

That encourages me today!

I praise the Lord that we serve a God Who knows all things,

**Hebrews 4:13 – *“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do”***

**Proverbs 15:3 – *“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good”***

Our God sees everything that happens in His universe,

Yet, He still has the ability to focus in on the individual

He cares about you and about the needs in your life

You can come to Him and find the help you need regardless of the problem you face

**I Peter 5:7 – *“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you”***

**Matthew 11:28-29 – *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls”***

Why was Jesus able to have compassion on so many different kinds of people in so many different settings and situations?

Because Jesus, even though He knew all their faults, did not let that get in the way of His compassion and expression of love!

He did not look just at that which was apparent on the surface,

He was able to look at these people and see their deepest need!

He loved them at the deepest level of His being; as a result, He was never impatient with them or offended by their needs

How do we see people?

We often base our evaluation of a person on …

… what we see with our eyes or hear with our ears

What we need to learn is to look past a person's exterior to see them as they really are

We must see their needs before we can express compassion to them!

May we learn to see them as Jesus does!

That is the essence of …

**Philippians 2:4 – *“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”***

**Galatians 6:2 – *“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ”***

**Matthew 22:39 – *“And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”***

**C. The ‘Response’ – v. 34** (end of the verse)

These people came to Jesus for help and He did not drive them away

The Bible says **“*and He began to teach them many things*”**

There, in that out of the way location, Jesus spread the spiritual banquet table with a feast of eternal truth

He led those lost sheep into the green pastures of His perfect, soothing, filling Word

He caused them to lie down beside the still waters of His wonderful revelation

Jesus gathered up the lost sheep that day and pointed them to God

He surely told them of the true way of salvation

He surely told them of the love of God for the lost

He surely told them of the hope, life, peace and joy that were all available in Him

He wanted to help and He had the power to help them

So, He reached out and helped them!

Do you remember the day the Good Shepherd found you wandering on the dark hills of sin?

Do you remember when He lifted you out of your desperate condition, placed you on His shoulders and carried you to a place of peace, safety and blessing?

Do you remember when He changed your life?

If you can, then you should rejoice in what He has done for you

If not, then you should come to Jesus and let Him change your life

He cares about you, He is able to help you

He will help you if you will come to Him by faith