

FEBRUARY 8, 2020  
Saturday of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week in OT  
Mark 6: 30-34

### JESUS CARES

How do we feel if we are lost? Or no one will guide us, who will protect us, depend on or count on to be there when we need them? This could be the feeling of the crowd before they met Jesus.

Jesus Christ's reaction when He saw the crowd following them is mercy and compassion to these people. They were hungry for the Word of God, for the Good News that Jesus brought about. They wanted to listen to Him and follow Him whenever He goes. They saw on Jesus that only in Him they will be satisfied. "Jesus is moved with pity for them and He continues to teach them many things. Jesus also had a deep longing to be with His people. He desired to share His heart with them and to shepherd them, leading them into the many truths He came to reveal. Jesus was a true Shepherd who loved His sheep and welcomed them continually."<sup>1</sup>

My sisters and brothers, we are the crowds longing for Jesus, His words, mercy and compassion. Like the crowds, Jesus Christ will be with us, teaching us, loving us and guiding us. May we always listen and live His words that He preached to us and by that we will be assured of heaven in the next life.

The second point of the gospel is Jesus' care for His disciples. He told them: "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while."<sup>2</sup> He sense that the apostles were tired and exhausted after their journey proclaiming the Kingdom to other people as

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<sup>1</sup> passionist.org

<sup>2</sup> Mark 6: 31 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

Jesus commanded them to do. He recognized that they, His apostles must take a rest for them to be strengthened and rejuvenated.

If Jesus recognized the need to rest, we, too, must take a rest once in while. We cannot resume working without rest and being recharged. We cannot fulfill our duties and responsibilities for the next day if we are not properly disposed. We need to rest. This is sometimes we forget or don't give it to others. We are so preoccupied with what we need to finish today even if we have still tomorrow. That's why as a priest Monday's day off is really important to me. Most of the time, I put my cellphone in silent mode, or turn it off to rest for a day. That's why don't disturb priests on Monday if possible. We too need time to rest.

So, my sisters and brothers, two points that our gospel is telling us today: Jesus Christ will never abandon us because He is the Good Shepherd willing to give up His life for His sheep and has a compassionate and merciful heart. He will always be at our side. And second, rest is important in our ministry. Always find time to rest so that next day, we are recharged and energized. We will be effective and have the drive to continue if we are refreshed, revitalized and invigorated.