

# "With Thankful Hearts"

Monday, November 22



"Pondering"

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. Mark 6:30-32

*So, in our final week of this devotional series, the question is: How do we give thanks? In this sixth chapter of Mark, there is a lot going on. It almost sounds frenetic and chaotic. Jesus takes his ministry back to his hometown with his disciples in tow. And his hometown friends and family are not impressed with what he has been doing and saying.*

*He sends his disciples out with nothing to carry or sustain their living and they preach, heal and cast out demons! King Herod beheads John the Baptist and Jesus feeds the 5000 people, and to add to the mix, Jesus walks on water!*

*But twice in the middle of all of this grief and miracle, Jesus tells his disciples to "come away". It was a necessary part of their lives to stop, rest, nourish and reflect. We see this in other places of scripture also. But with Jesus modeling it for us, it has more impact.*

*One way we can give thanks is by "reflecting". Our lives may not sound like what we see in Mark 6, but they are no less frenetic and chaotic. The purpose of stopping, resting, nourishing and reflecting is so that we are fit for the work God has for us to do. We give thanks by looking back on what God has done in our lives to know what God has for us to do or to be next. Give thanks by pondering.*