

Sermon by Pastor Anthony E. Schultz

Mark 6:30-34 Pentecost 9 Series B. July 29, 2012

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then, 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." ³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³ But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When 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.



People of God – rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

If you were brought up in a home where your parents lived through the Great Depression – chances are pretty good you were brought up with a German work ethic. That work – hard work – is not just a good idea – it’s essential. I was brought up impressed with the concept – at the end of the day – if someone – anyone asked you what did you do today – it was not alright for me to say – I had a jammy day – ate Cap’n Crunch and watched cartoons! What did you do today? What work did you do? What did you accomplish? How is the world a better place because you are in it? I remember coming home from college always on a Thursday. I remember saying I was really tired from taking final exams and packing and driving home – I should rest on Friday and then go to work – my Summer job – hit the ground running Monday! No – I needed to go to work on Friday and Saturday – go to Church on Sunday – usher – and then if I was really tired – I could go to bed early Sunday night – because I wanted to hit the ground running on Monday! When you grow up with a very powerful work ethic – sometimes rest – sometimes vacation isn’t your best thing. That’s why it’s very practical to remember what God’s Word teaches us today:

Jesus Gives Us Rest

1. Rest for our bodies is important
2. Rest for our soul is even more important!

Context! Today is the 9th Sunday after Pentecost. Today is the 7th Sunday in a row – reading from Mark. This week and next week – and then – remember – John chapter 6 – Jesus is the Bread of Life! The Gospel of Mark – chapter 6. Jesus tries to preach the Gospel in his home town – where he grew up – Nazareth. His neighbors not just unimpressed – they are *offended!* **“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given**

him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of — do you remember their names? James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." He could not do many miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

Chapter 6 — Jesus sends out the Twelve — two by two — with power over evil spirits. They didn't take lots of supplies with them — just a walking staff — no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Stay with the people. They will share their bread and fish and give you a place to sleep. You share with them the most precious thing of all — the word of life! Mark chapter 6 John the Baptist is beheaded. Remember Salome danced and a drunken reckless King Herod promised her anything she wanted up to half of his kingdom. Her mom asked for the head of John the Baptist on a platter and that's what she got!

³⁰ **The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.** *The apostles* — the disciples *sent out* — the apostles gathered around Jesus to tell him about their mission work — their mission establishment — their scattering of the seeds of the Gospel! They told people about Jesus. How could they *know--believe* unless someone tells them? When we were on vacation — we drove to Columbus, OH. Just coming into Columbus we saw a sign that said Trooper Wendy G. Everett Memorial Drive. Who is this Wendy? Do you know? Wendy died in the line of duty. Do you know how? Someone thought it would be funny — to throw a water-balloon from a freeway bridge in front of a semi. The balloon hit the truck right on the windshield and shattered it! The truck driver pulled over. Trooper Wendy G. Everett was standing next to the truck — making a report when another driver crashed into her — killing her. That driver didn't stop! He kept on driving. Oh, the next day he turned himself in. He was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter. Do you know his punishment? 18 months in prison — 18 months — 1 year and 6 months — 540 days? That's it?! All our sins cost Jesus his life! Jesus died on the cross for the apostles who did sins and made mistakes. Jesus died for the tax collectors and sinners — the people that everyone else looked down on — as the most wicked and terrible. Jesus died on the cross for the Pharisees and Sadducees — the teachers of the law — the hypocrites — the people who only pretended to believe in the LORD — arrogant in their own self-righteousness. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world! Jesus died for you and for me!

³⁰ **The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.** Telling people about Jesus — how are you going to do that? You can make opportunities to share Jesus — if you work at it! When we were on vacation — we drove some 2,000 miles — down to Fort Wayne, IN — over to Columbus, OH — back to Fort Wayne and then up to Three Lakes — by Eagle River. Once — while motoring down the freeway — we went past a semi hauling Ruckers Candy. Do you know Ruckers Candy? They sell plastic bags of candies — like gummy bears, those big orange puff peanuts, little pretzels dipped in white frosting and those big orange slices — I like those — and peanuts dipped in that bumpy lumpy red candy — I like those too. None of that is remarkable. What is — is the fact that there is a **†** on their packages of candy and on their trucks. On the side of their trucks it says, "Make time for prayer and family and giving praise!" How neat is that? Make time for Jesus! That's pretty good — you go looking

for candy and you find something even sweeter! You can talk about Jesus all the time. It just takes a little courage and a little practice! I was at the hospital the other day at UW in the elevator in the parking ramp. A lady pushing another lady – who looked like her mom – in a wheelchair got on the elevator, too. I asked the pusher lady – is the lady in the chair much better? She said – not yet. I said – they will take very good care of you here. Jesus helped my wife get a liver and kidney transplant here 7 ½ years ago. The pusher lady said – that’s what we are waiting for. I said Jesus will take care of you. And she said they knew that! You can do that! You can bring Jesus into everyday conversation. You can encourage people who know about Jesus and you can talk to people who don’t know Jesus. And – it may happen – someone will curse you for trying to talk about Jesus – but that doesn’t happen too often. And if it did – if we should actually suffer emotional – even physical harm for Jesus – that would be a blessing, too, to be *counted worthy to suffer* for the saving reputation of our Redeemer!

³¹ Then, 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.” ³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. A quiet solitary place – is a gift from Jesus, too. Remember the whole Old Testament – from the very beginning – on the 7th day God rested from his work of creating everything. The LORD wanted his people to rest on the 7th day – on Saturday – to find rest in God’s Word – from all their work – even before there was sin in the world. And now that there is sin – we need that rest all the more--from all the frustration of day to day life! To be a *work-aholic* is not a good thing. To be like the chefs on the Food Network who say they had to choose between their family – their marriage and their career and they chose their career – is not a God-pleasing choice. It’s easy to say you love your family – love your children more than your job. It’s easy to *say* that. But if you asked your children – which is more important to your father or your mother – their job or their children – what would your children say? Do they always have to make the sacrifice – always have to come second to our work? King David knew horrible heart-ache from his son Absalom – horrible and terrible heart-ache. I wonder if when Absalom was little if his father didn’t say to him – Daddy cannot play with you – I’m the King – take all the money out of the royal treasury and buy any toy you want – ride any pony you want – play with bow and arrows with someone in Daddy’s army--run and play with your mommy – daddy is the King!

When 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. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” There have been countless interviews since the terrible shooting in Colorado. I heard one guy say he wasn’t afraid to die – he was afraid of what would happen to him *one moment after* he died! That would be a terrible way to live – afraid of what will happen one moment after you die. Again – it’s painfully obvious – if you listen to the news – people die all the time! 6 year old little girls at the Batman movie at midnight. The family favorite picture – this little girl having an ice cream cone – and she was

fatally wounded! What wondrous peace and confidence is ours – that by the grace of God we know – I am Jesus' little lamb. His forgiving love will give me forever rest. Amen!