



# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

July 18, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 107

## Gospel Mk 6:30-34

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So, they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

---

**Reflection & Spiritual Questions:** Jesus shows us his leadership is not about what He wants but it is about the needs of others. When you are a leader what are you most concern about? Pope Francis gives us a small examination of conscience: Feel superior to those who work for me? ◇ Demonstrate an imbalance between work and other areas of life? ◇ Substitute formality for true human intimacy? ◇ Rely too much on plans and not enough on intuition and improvisation? ◇ Spend too little time breaking silos and building bridges? ◇ Fail to regularly acknowledge the debt I owe to my mentors and to others? ◇ Take too much satisfaction in my perks and privileges? ◇ Isolate myself from customers and first-level employees? ◇ Denigrate the motives and accomplishments of others? ◇ Exhibit or encourage undue deference and servility? ◇ Put my own success ahead of the success of others? ◇ Fail to cultivate a fun and joy-filled work environment? ◇ Exhibit selfishness when it comes to sharing rewards and praise? ◇ Encourage parochialism rather than community? ◇ Behave in ways that seem egocentric to those around me?