

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Mark 6: 30-56

30. 30. And the Apostles gathered themselves together, straightened their clothing and came unto Jesus, and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had left undone, and whether there was any health in them, and what they had taught and what visual aids they had used.
31. And He said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while and take your ease and enjoy a second breakfast: for there were many coming and going, and parading to and fro, and going up and down alleyways and streets so that none quite knew what they were about, and they had no leisure so much as to eat or quaff a refreshing liquor.
32. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately, for Jesus had no wish to take public transport, for after their travels the disciples were unwashed and more than a bit whiffy.
33. And the people saw them departing, and many knew Him, and ran afoot thither and hither out of all cities, and gathered on the dockside did see which way the wind was blowing, and outwent them, and did reach his destination before Him, and came together unto Him, panting exceedingly.
34. And Jesus, when He came out, saw much people, and did marvel at their speed of arrival and the various modes of transport used, for some travelled by cart, others by harnessed bullocks, and some on foot and many did sit on their ass as it moved beneath them, and He was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd, and pigs without a swineherd, and horses without a crop, though He did not say this publicly: and He began to teach them many things.

[IT BEING A LENGTHY PROCLAMATION THE CONGREGATION MAY BREAK FOR BEVERAGES AT THIS POINT BUT MUST NOT SIT DOWN]

35. And when the day was now far spent, His disciples came unto Him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed and we are all hungered:
36. Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and find a baker to buy themselves bread, or a nice kebab shop: for they have nothing to eat. Listen to the rumblings.
37. He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto Him, Fie! Thou knowest that is impossible. C'mon! Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat? And Judas (yes, that one) did look in the common purse and declare that there was not enough coin, for he had spent some on sweetmeats, Lebanese hard-gums, and a bag of deep-fried locusts.
38. And Jesus, raising His eyes unto heaven in a most un-Markan way, saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? Go and see. And when they knew, they say, Four sliced wholemeal and one Farmhouse, no bagels, and two tins of sardines. With only one key.
39. And He commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass, mindful of the soiled areas where goats had settled.
40. And they sat down in ranks, by CCCs, and by LLLs, for they were well versed in the Roman method of metric numbering.
41. And when He had taken the V - sorry, 5 loaves and the two tins of fishes and the one key, He looked up to heaven – liturgically this time - and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two tins of fishes, once He had managed to open both cans with the one key, divided He among them all. And His actions were recorded for future rubrics.

42. And they did all eat, and were filled, though some did wish there was some mayonnaise to go with it, and others bemoaned the lack of salad and tomatoes. One family wanted chips.
43. And they took up twelve baskets – which Judas had been saving for a retiring collection - full of the bread fragments, and of the fishes, even the bones and oily bits.
44. And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men. And there were also many women and children, but the writer of this Gospel sees them as an irrelevance to the miracle.
45. And straightway He constrained his disciples to get into the ship, which had not drifted out to sea, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while He sent away the people. And they did board the vessel and set off onto the water without Him.
46. And when He had sent them away, He departed into a mountain to pray. And He did seek enlightenment, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him, for He was much stricken with indigestion from the fish, and concerned that He had dropped the key somewhere.
47. And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and He alone on the land wondering how He was going to rejoin them.
48. And looking out across the water He saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind had come up – unsurprisingly after that repast, and was contrary unto them and they had furled the sails and battened down the hatches: and about the fourth watch of the night He cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them, for there was mist and light drizzle which did obscure His sight.
49. But when they saw Him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: Crikey! and Egad! And they were exceedingly damp in their gunwales.
50. For they all saw Him, and were super-troubled, and some did become even damper. And immediately He talked with them, and saith unto them, Ahoy! Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.
51. And He went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased and the weather also calmed: and they were sore and amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.
52. For they considered not the miracle of the loaves and the using of one key to open two tins: for their heart was hardened, and they saw no connection.
53. And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret – which was nowhere near Bethsaida - and drew to the shore. And Peter did cry, Avast behind! And Simon the Zealot was discomfited. And Thaddeus reddened.
54. And when they were come out of the ship, straightway the local people knew Him, for they had seen His picture in the swine-breeding pages of the Legion Weekly,
55. And ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard He was. And many were brought unto Him, even some against their wishes for their relatives would not listen to their protestations.
56. And whithersoever He entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets or propped them up in the doorways, and besought Him that they might touch if it were but the border of His garment, fashioned as it was without seam: and as many as touched Him were made whole. And the hem of His robe, but not any seam for there was none, remained unstained except for a slight trace of sardine oil, so that many who saw it, marvelled.

[THOSE WHO DID NOT RETURN FROM TEA, COFFEE AND CUSTARD CREAMS IN TIME FOR THE LAST SECTIONS MAY READ THEM AT HOME.]