

We all like the story to end good. The whole world was captivated last week with the boys soccer team stuck in a cave; with even the most experienced US Navy Seal on hand stated it's as bad as it gets, expect casualties. But a good ending, except 1 Thai navy seal who died. The world rejoiced as all the boys got out. A good ending. But that's not how life always goes. Who isn't heartbroken with the horrific, bad news at Table Rock Lake.

It's so easy to daily be brought down by the things of the world. How many days goes by without shootings, abuses stories, immorality promoted, chaos shown on every media platform, every 5 days a policeman killed, and everything else of bad news. Depression is a frequent consequence of keeping your TV or smart phone in a 24-hour news cycle. It is sure to test the mettle of even the most stalwart optimist.

Is the only alternative to stay in the dark, hide from all the bad news? Let's be Amish. No. Is there another option? There is. Our life is not just to be an optimist or wishful thinking or oblivious to dangers and bad news; but living in the reality: I have a Shepard and His works of compassion in my life changes how I view the world and my day.

Note it was a bad, desperate situation with Jesus and the crowd. The crowd had intruded upon the quiet time Jesus and the disciples had sought quiet time after the mission trip and really bad news the king murdered God's prophet, John the Baptist murder. They said to Jesus, **Just send them away**. The disciples looked at the crowd the way we look at the world's problems –we have neither the desire nor the resources to make much difference - and even problems of others we could help.

But not Jesus. He looked on them with compassion, acts. He saw them - sheep without a shepherd, easy prey and easy victims of those who would wound and hurt them more, needing care.

You give them something to eat Jesus urged His disciples. They were quick with excuses and reasons why not. We would be right there with them. And not just to help, but we are so bad, so bad in acting with compassion. Compassion. From the Latin, to co-suffer. To not look to your selfish needs before others. To not be quick to forgive someone else's flaws and sin. There are few things in life we are worse at, than acting with compassion. Show some empathy! for your brother and sister here. We've all dealt with bad news.

In a desolate place. That's what happened then and now. What goes on there has a lot to do with now. We need to be reminded that Jesus is still with His people to feed and nourish them with His Word and Sacraments. How often you forget. Do you think His is off on the rim of the galaxy. Are you ever

alone to struggle with fears and doubts and bad news? And you are plagued with sin and temptations, is it ever up to you and your courage and inner strength to carry you through? You cannot even take care of you. That's why Jesus feeds you in the desert places of life. In what He has done. How could He ever ignore your pleas, and act with compassion in your life. We never see clearly how God will accomplish His purpose or keep His promise.

Mark 6:34 is one of many compelling verses that Jesus wants, expects you here every Sunday. **He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, a pastor. And he began to teach them many things.** Our Lord pities, every single person who is not here -to have a pastor and be taught by Him here and fed by Him. Those not here only hurt themselves, starving in desolate places whether they realize it or not.

And they were satisfied. echortasthEsan. Not just satisfied like from a good meal from mom or a nice restaurant, but the word echortasthEsan means filled. Complete. Not in want. And this is you. He fills you, you cannot provide for yourself or even feed yourself. He feeds, fills you with what He brings, His very Word to teach and food not from this world, that you be filled, complete in Him. And you are.

So trust him, whether good news or bad news. We do not pray, give us this day our monthly bread. Daily bread in the Greek means "ever ongoing, everyday into eternity" bread. All of your needs of body and souls. Even that(point to Altar).

Why are you made and why are you here? You are not just a bunch of Legos He plays with. Augustine is correct when he wrote, **You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.** You have intrinsic worth, your existence never meaningless. He choose to have you, your very existence is in His care, compassion. Bad news, accidents will befall this world, even your life, and in Him, in His care, with His works of compassion, it will be good day. You have a shepherd. The good news in your life are but a glimpse of the good to come and bad news, His uses to bring a greater good.

The point of all this stuff, your stuff of creation: All of your resources have meaning and power only in the hands of God, as He uses it to take care of you. Trust the Lord. He leads you. You will not be disappointed. You will be satisfied in His Kingdom, what He brings, what He gives; forgiven, taught and fed, by His pastor. In Him, good news for you; everyday your story always, a good ending. Everyday, tell yourself, today is a good day to have a good day. **For He is good and His mercy to you endures forever.** Come and be satisfied in only what He gives.