

„Go and see!“ (Mk 6,38)

Welcome and introduction

Today we will look at a Bible passage from the Gospel of Mark. Together we will set out after the Bible passage, we will go in different directions. Now let's read the Bible passage:

Text: Mk 6,30–44 (English Standard Version)

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.

And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.

Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”

And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”

Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass.

So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all.

And they all ate and were satisfied.

And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Impulse thoughts I

Let us try for this narration of the feeding of the five thousand an approximation to our life context: Unexpectedly visitors come and just as suddenly the question arises, which food one could offer spontaneously or does it still need a fast purchase - in times this would be no problem, if already the disciples come on this idea and suggest to go away to buy bread. Looking at the crowd, they come to the conclusion that the food they have available will never be enough. Already faced with the challenge, they are convinced of the need to buy resources.

But Jesus dissuades them, first instructing them to *"Go and see!"* This sentence may sound downright insane in view of the crowd; there is no doubt that the supplies are too few. Then what is the point of looking at all?

"Go and see!" With this invitation from Jesus, the certainty of surely coming up short turns into an examination of the supplies: What is actually available on site and in what quantity? *"Five loaves and also two fish!"*

"Go and see!" - on the threshold between the years, we may already be facing various challenges that await us in 2021. This look into the future - also in its uncertainty - may also trigger in us the anxious feeling that our own strengths, the existing competences, the available resources might not be sufficient and might become too little. But Jesus invites us, even in the face of such uncertainty, to look at our own abilities, to see what we have already acquired and to appreciate what we have. We want to accept this invitation to first look at ourselves, to check our own possibilities. In this sense: *"Go and see!"*

Action I

We now invite you to take a look at ourselves. Together, we will now make an "I" bag, where we look at what is inside. There are instructions for this, which you can find on the homepage.