



## *The iHad Went Challenge*

### Day Two

#### Passage:

Mark 6:30-44

#### Principles:

##### **Missions is not a trip.**

The context of this story is interesting. In the first part of chapter 6, Jesus sends his 12 disciples out on a M trip of sorts (verse 7). They go out, John the Baptist is killed, and then they return. They are eager to report to Jesus the work they were able to do, and Jesus is eager to hear it. A little rest, a little quiet, a little personal reflection is exactly what the disciples needed, and they weren't even dealing with jetlag.

Those plans changed. They tried to get away, but the crowds followed them and interrupted the renewal retreat before it ever got started. As Jesus abandons rest in order to engage the work, you can almost hear the disciples whine as they urge him to send the people away. They have just finished a tough journey and they deserve some quiet. They need rest. The people can wait.

And so do you. But will you miss out on ministry back here at home b/c you have earned some rest? Will you send friends and family away or will you begin to look for ways to meet needs back home in the same way you looked for them overseas? Missions is not a trip...it is a way of life.

##### **Rest and reflection are necessary.**

This isn't the only time that Jesus pulls his disciples in the direction of rest and renewal. Jesus himself sought out time alone to pray on a regular basis. Make sure that you spend adequate time renewing for the task ahead of you. Physical rest is important, but remember that you need to renew yourself spiritually. The iHad Went Challenge is a first step toward reflection. Work through this in a quiet place with adequate time for reflection and prayer. You don't have to disengage from the mission life in order to renew your spirit. Find the balance and press on.

#### Prayer:

Jesus thank you for teaching me that missions is not an item on a checklist of a spiritual inventory, but that on mission is a characteristic of the life of your followers. As I seek out rest and renewal both physically and spiritually, help me to not miss out on any opportunities to minister or reach out to those around me back here in my comfort zone. Grant me opportunities and conversations in the next few days that will enable me to integrate smoothly those things I learned on the field overseas. Show me where to engage the ancient work in my hometown, in my school, in my sphere of influence for your namesake.

#### Plan:

- Set up some accountability with a team member for taking the iHad Went Challenge and spend the next 6 days finishing this up and discussing it together.
- Pray about areas of ministry that you can engage in as you return to your hometown. Are their needs in your student ministry? With internationals?
- Set up a time to meet with your student minister or pastor in order to report what God did on your trip (see Day One), but also to ask them how you can get more involved in serving in your church and the ministries your church supports.