February 29

Brief Rest for the Shepherds, then Back to the Sheep

For thus says the Lord Yahweh: Behold, I myself, even I, will search for my sheep…and I will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered…and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel – Ezekiel 34:11-13

[Mark 6:30-34] The apostles gathered themselves together to Jesus, and they told him all things, whatever they had done, and whatever they had taught. He said to them, "You come apart into a deserted place, and rest awhile." For there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. They went away in the boat to a deserted place *of a city called Bethsaida* by themselves (*to the other side of the sea of Galilee, which is also called the Sea of Tiberias*). They saw them going, and many recognized him and ran there on foot from all the cities *because they saw his signs which he did on those who were sick*. They arrived before them and came together to him. Jesus came out, saw a great multitude, and he had compassion on them, *welcomed them*, and healed their sick, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. [Matthew 14:13-14, *Luke 9:10-11*, *John 6:1-3*]

Jesus came out, saw a great multitude, and he had compassion

1. Has Jesus invited you to rest with him in a people-less place? What did you do there?

2. Which people could you have compassion on like Jesus did? Will you do that today?

3. Jesus, thank you for shepherding me—I'm shepherdless without you! Please help me…