

**THE GOSPEL OF SAINT MARK
DEPICTING THE LIFE OF
JESUS OF NAZARETH
CHAPTER 6,**

Purpose:

Among the four Gospels, Mark is considered the most concise account of the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, "the Son of God."

In the 60's of the first century A.D., believers in Rome were treated cruelly by the populace, and many were tortured and put to death by the Roman emperor Nero. As one of the church leaders in Rome, John Mark was moved by the Holy Spirit to write this Gospel as a prophetic anticipation of, or a pastoral response to, this time of persecution. His intention was to (strengthen the foundations) of faith in Roman believers and, if need be, to inspire them to suffer faithfully for the gospel, placing before them the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus their Lord.

Outline;

- I. The people of Nazareth refuse to believe (1-6)
- II. Jesus sends out the twelve disciples (7-13)
- III. Herod kills John the Baptist (14-29)
- IV. Jesus feeds the five thousand (30-44)
- V. Jesus walks on the water (45-52)
- VI. Jesus heals all who touch him (53-56)
- VII.

THEME: JESUS CHRIST - SON OF GOD

<p><u>EXPLANATION</u> <u>Jesus Christ alone is the Son of God.</u> <u>In mark Jesus demonstrates his divinity by overcoming disease, demons, and death. Although he had the power to be king of the earth, Jesus chose to obey the Father and die for us</u></p>	<p><u>IMPORTANCE</u> <u>When Jesus rose from the dead, he proved that he was God, that he could forgive sin, and that he had the power to change our lives. By trusting in him for forgiveness, we can begin our new life with him as our guide</u></p>
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I. The people of Nazareth refuse to believe (vs. 1-6), {Matthew 13:53-58}

Jesus' astonishing authority continues to offend, this time among those for whom he is only the local carpenter. That this is the last time in the Gospel where Jesus is associated with a synagogue suggests this rejection marks a significant break in his relationship with the institution and the Judaism it represents.

Mark 6:1-6 KJV (Disbelief)

[1] And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him. [2] And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? And what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? [3] Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. [4] But Jesus said unto them, A (prophet) is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

[5] And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

[6] And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

(v. 4) Jesus said that a prophet (in other words, a worker for God) is never honored in his hometown. But that doesn't make his work any less important. A person doesn't need to be respected or honored to be useful to God. If friends, neighbors, or family don't respect your Christian work, don't let their rejection keep you from serving God.

THEME: SERVANT LEADERSHIP

EXPLANATION

As the Messiah, Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament by coming to earth. He did not come as a conquering king; he came as a servant. He helped people by telling them about God and healing them. Even more, by giving his life as a sacrifice for sin, he performed the ultimate act of service.

IMPORTANCE

Because of Jesus' example, we should be willing to serve God and others. Real greatness in God's kingdom is shown by service and sacrifice. Ambition or love of power or position should not be our motive; instead, we should do God's work because we love him.

(v.5) Jesus could have done greater miracles in Nazareth, but he chose not to because of the people's pride and unbelief. The miracles he did had little effect on the people because they did not accept his message or believe he was God. Therefore, he looked elsewhere, seeking those who would respond to his miracles and message.

II. Jesus sends out the twelve disciples (vs. 7-13) {Matthew 10:1-5; Luke 9:1-6}

Mark 6:7-13 KJV (Sent two by two)

[7] And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; [8] and commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: [9] but be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. [10] And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into a house, there abide till ye depart from that place. [11] And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city. [12] And they went out, and preached that men should repent. [13] And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

The disciples were sent out in pairs. Individually, they could have reached more areas of the country, but this was not Christ's plan—the advantage of going out in two includes.

1. They could strengthen and encourage one another
2. They could provide comfort in rejection
3. They could give each other discernment, and fewer mistakes would be made
4. They could stir each other to action as a counter to idleness or indifference.

Our strength comes from God, but he meets many of our needs through our teamwork with others.

Vital point: As you serve Christ, don't try to go it alone.

(Vs. 8-9) Mark records that the disciples were instructed to take nothing with them except staves. One explanation is that Matthew and Luke were referring to a club used for protection, whereas Mark was talking about a shepherd's crook.

In any case, the point in all three accounts is the same; the disciples were to leave at once, without extensive preparation, trusting in God's care rather than in their own resources.

Mark 6:11 KJV

[11] And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Vs. 11 - Pious Jews shook the dust from their feet after passing through Gentile cities or territory to show their separation from Gentile influences or practices.

When the disciples shook the dust from their feet, leaving a Jewish town, it was a vivid sign that they wished to remain separate from people who rejected Jesus and his message.

Jesus made it clear that all who heard the Gospel were responsible for what they did with it. The disciples were not to blame if the message was rejected, as long as they had faithfully and carefully presented it.

We are not responsible when others reject Christ's message of salvation, but we do have the responsibility to share it clearly and faithfully with others.

III. Herod kills John the Baptist (vs. 14-29) {Matthew 14:1-12; Luke 9:7-9}

Mark 6:14-29 KJV Herod (vs.) Jesus; A leadership conflict

[14] And king Herod heard of him; (for his name was spread abroad:) and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him. [15] Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets. [16] But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead. [17] For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. [18] For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. [19] Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not: [20] for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and a holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. [21] And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee; [22] and when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee. [23] And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom. [24] And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist. [25] And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist. [26] And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her. [27] And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison, [28] and brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother. [29] And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.

Herod Antipas: A Roman tetrarch of the region of Galilee and Perea, located in Jerusalem

Relatives: Father, Herod the Great; Mother, Malthace. First wife: daughter of Aretas IV. Second wife: Herodias.

Contemporaries: John the Baptist; Jesus, Pilate

Strengths: Built the city of Tiberias and other architectural projects

- Ruled the region of Galilee for the Romans

Weaknesses: Consumed with his quest for power

- Put off decisions or made wrong ones under pressure
- Divorced his wife to marry the wife of his half-brother, Philip
- Imprisoned John the Baptist and later ordered his execution
- Had a minor part in the execution of Jesus

Lessons from his life: A life motivated by ambition is usually characterized by self-destruction when disassociated with God's will and purpose.

- Opportunities to do good usually come to us in the form of choices to be made for each person in life.
- God chooses the best possible ways to reveal Himself.
- He uses his Word, circumstances, our mind, or other people to get our attention.
- He is persuasive and persistent but never forces himself on us.
- To miss or resist God's message as Herod did is a tragedy.

How aware are you of God's attempts to enter your life? Have you welcomed Him?

As a tetrarch under Roman authority, Herod had no kingdom to give. His offer of half his kingdom was his way to say he would give Herodias's daughter almost anything she wanted. When Herodias asked for John's head, Herod would have been greatly embarrassed in front of his guests if he had denied her request.

Words are powerful. Because they can lead to great sin...we should use them with great care.

REAL LEADERSHIP: Mark gives us some of the best insights into Jesus' character

<u>Herod as a leader</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Selfish● Murderer● Immoral● Political opportunist● King over a small territory	<u>Jesus as a leader</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Compassionate● Healer● Just and good● Servant● King over all creation
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IV. Jesus feeds five thousand (Vs. 30-44) {Matthew 14:13-21; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15}

Mark 6:30-44 KJV (The caring and compassionate Shepherd)

[30] And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. [31] And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, (and rest a while): for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. [32] And they departed into a desert place by ship privately. [33] And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and out went them, and came together unto him. [34] And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things. [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: [36] send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat. [37] He answered and said unto them, give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworths of bread, and give them to eat? [38] He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? Go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes. [39] And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. [40] And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. [41] And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. [42] And they did all eat, and were filled. [43] And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. [44] And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.

Vs. 30: Mark uses the word “apostles” only once.

Apostle means “sent one”, as a messenger, authorized agent, or missionary. The word became an official title for Jesus’ twelve disciples after his death and resurrection.

*Ephesians 2:20 KJV
[20] and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone;*

Mark 6:31 KJV

And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while.

When the disciples had returned from their mission, Jesus took them away to rest.

Doing God’s work is very important!
But Jesus recognized that to do it effectively, we need periodic rest and renewal. Jesus and his disciples, however, did not always find it easy to get the rest that they needed.

Mark 6:34 KJV

[34] And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

Sheep are easily scattered; without a shepherd, they are in grave danger. Jesus was the shepherd who could teach them what they needed to know and keep them from straying from God (Psalm 23; Isaiah 40:11; Ezekiel 34:5)

Vs. 37 **“Give ye them to eat.”**

When Jesus asked the disciples to provide food for over 5,000 people, they were amazed and said it would take a small fortune to feed the crowd.

How do you react when you are given an impossible task?

- A situation that seems impossible with human resources is simply an opportunity for God.
- The disciples did everything they could by gathering the available food and organizing the people into groups.

- Then, **in answer to prayer**, and when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, **and blessed**, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.
- **God did the impossible.**
- **When facing an impossible task, do what you can and ask God to do the rest.**
- **He may see fit to make the impossible happen.**
- **NIKE J__ D_ I_**

VS. 37-42

Why did Jesus bother to feed these people?

He could just as easily have sent them on their way. Jesus does not ignore needs!

He is concerned about every aspect of our lives, the physical as well as the spiritual.

By directing the disciples to provide for the crowds, Jesus draws their attention to the significance of what follows. Nevertheless, they will fail to understand.

- The grass around the Sea of Galilee is green after the early winter or late spring rains; the description evokes the green grass (Ps. 23) and the pastures (Ezek. 34:14) that symbolize God's provision for his people.
- In a similar setting, "hundreds and fifties" recalls the order of Israel's camp in the wilderness. (Exod. 18:21,25).
- In contrast to Herod's "kingdom", with its self-glorifying feast for his elites (v.21), Jesus, as the Davidic Messiah and God's incarnate presence, is Israel's true Shepherd who compassionately provides for all who come to him.
- Jesus' supernatural, abundant provision, including fish, surpasses that of the manna in the wilderness, where people had only what they needed (Exod. 16:16-21)

Vs. 43-44

Based on Israel's experience in the first exodus, several Jewish traditions expected a repetition of the wilderness provision, some even in association with the Messiah, in their end-time deliverance.

- Of all Jesus' public mighty deeds, this has the most obvious Messianic overtones.

As we work to bring wholeness to people's lives, we must never ignore the fact that all of us have both physical and spiritual needs.

- It is impossible to minister effectively to the spiritual needs without considering the physical needs.

- James 2:14-17 MSG

Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

- True faith transforms our conduct as well as our thoughts. If our lives remain unchanged, we don't truly believe the truths we claim to believe.
- We cannot earn our way into heaven by serving and obeying God, but such "works" show that our commitment to God is real.
- Works of loving service are not a substitute for, but a verification of, our faith in Christ.
- While it is true that our good works can never earn salvation, true faith always results in a changed life and good works.
- After all, even demons know who Jesus is, but they don't obey him.
- True "faith" involves a commitment of your whole being, "body, soul, and spirit!"

Jesus walks on the water (Vs. 45-52); {Matthew 22:-33; John 6:6-21}

Mark 6:45-52 KJV (Jesus walks on the water)

[45] And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. [46] And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray. [47] And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. [48] And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them. [49] But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: [50] for they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, **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 they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. [52] For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

After feeding the people who had followed him to Bethsaida, Jesus sent the people home and sent the disciples by boat toward Bethsaida, and he went to pray. The disciples encountered a storm, and Jesus walked to them on the water. They landed at Gennesaret.

The disciples were afraid, but Jesus' presence calmed their fears.

When you experience fear, do you try to deal with it yourself, or do you let Jesus deal with it?

In times of fear and uncertainty, it is calming to know that Christ is always with you (Matthew 28:20). To recognize his presence is the antidote for fear.

Matthew 28:20 KJV

[20] **teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

(Vs. 52)

The disciples didn't want to believe, perhaps because:

1. They couldn't accept the fact that this human named Jesus was really the Son of God
2. They dare not believe that the Messiah would choose them as his followers
3. They still did not understand the real reason for Jesus coming to earth,

Their disbelief took the form of misunderstanding.

Even after watching Jesus miraculously feed 5,000 people, they still could not take the final step and believe he was God's son.

If they had believed, they would not have been amazed that he could walk on water.

Is your heart hardened against Jesus?

Even Christians can be hard-hearted toward Jesus' word.

We can be informed about what his words say, and we can be amazed at how he has worked in other people's lives, but we can refuse to believe he will come to our aid in time of trouble.

Such a reaction is not unbelief, but willful, hard-hearted rejection of Christ's ability to help.

Instead, "be not afraid," and trust that he is there for you.

IV. Jesus heals all who touch him (Vs. 53-65); {Matthew 15:1-20}

Mark 6:53-56 KJV (Faith moved people to act)

[53] And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore. [54] And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him, [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. [56] And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were, but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

Gennesaret was a small, fertile plain located on the west side of the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum, Jesus' home, sat at the northern edge of the plain. Jesus' reputation as a healer continued to draw people in droves.

Seeking healing through some kind of physical contact was common in the ancient world.

Jesus himself regularly touched people.

The people probably expected Jesus' healing power to be released when they touched his tassels (Matthew 9:20-21).

They may not have realized that it was faith in Jesus, not magical powers, which healed them.

Takeaways and Applications:

- Be faithful when rejected
- Be compassionate when tired
- Be courageous in storms
- Be dependent in impossibilities
- Be tender-hearted in belief

Rhema Christian Center
Weekly Bible Study Classes
Triumphant Tuesday
Wisdom Wednesday
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Reference:
NIV - ZONDERVAN
STUDY BIBLE
The Full Life Study- KJV
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