

READ

Read Mark 6:30–8:30.

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Francis’s teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions:

What sort of power does Jesus have over the brokenness in our world?

Who or what is responsible for our sin?

How do believers come to understand the truth of the gospel? Through whose power does Jesus become clear in our minds?

Show Session 7: Mark 6:30–8:30 (15 minutes)

DISCUSS

Francis visited the site where scholars believe Jesus multiplied the fish and loaves to feed over 5,000 people. Jesus was in high demand during those days. After his apostles had returned from their missionary outing, they tried to get away for a break. But the crowds followed, and Jesus showed compassion for them.

Look at Mark 6:34–37. **How would you characterize Jesus’s response to**

disciples see clearly?

Do they?

In what ways do you feel you see Jesus more clearly now? How does this passage increase your understanding of him and his mission?

Horizontal lines for writing.

make a person temporarily unclean.

An unclean person could go through a process to become clean—make a suitable sacrifice (Leviticus 1:3–17), allow the right amount of time to pass (Lev. 15:19), participate in a symbolic ceremony, such as a ritual washing (Exodus 30:17–21). This was likely what the apostles did not do before eating, prompting the Pharisees’ complaint.

In the Gospels, we see Jesus change the rules: he touched the unclean personally to cleanse and purify them, illustrating that he holds the power to transform the lives of individuals. Jesus’s touch healed or restored dead people (Mark 5:21–24, 35–43), those with skin diseases (Mark 1:40–45), even those suffering an unnatural blood flow (Mark 5:25–34) to a state of cleanness.

In Mark 7:15, Jesus proclaimed that nothing going into a person can make that individual unclean—only things coming out of a person. In this passage Jesus abolished the defiling physical and animal aspects that made a person unclean.

He confronted the religious leaders by exposing their hypocrisy: they were very concerned about how the people followed every tiny regulation, which could be trumpeted about to show their “righteousness.” They were too busy

looking good to prioritize actually doing good: they were neglecting the commandments of God to love their neighbors, honor their parents, uphold justice, protect the vulnerable.

Consider your spiritual life. How are you busy following the rules, spoken or unspoken, in your faith tradition?

How have you unwittingly added conditions to your righteousness, behaving as if adherence to traditions or rules will determine how pleased God is with you?

It's easy to mask our inner motivations with outward activities. Think of your church or family life. **What sort of actions look righteous? Now, how can a person engage in those while inwardly being unrighteous? When have you done this? How can you avoid such double-mindedness in the future?**
