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Concerning Jesus (Mark 6) Jesus and Authority -Kelly Roth

This Discussion Guide is designed to help you **think more deeply** about the sermon and **engage with others** through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and **allow God to work** in your life as you apply what you discover.

➤ CONVERSATION STARTER

Who was your favorite teacher? What made them your favorite?

➤ EXPLORATION

Over the past few weeks we have seen some powerful themes emerge from the Gospel of Mark
Chapter 1 - Jesus is the long awaited Messiah
Chapter 2 - Jesus is guided by compassion
Chapter 3 - Jesus invites diversity
Chapter 4 - Jesus sews good seed
Chapter 5 - Jesus has power over evil

This week we will focus on Chapter 6 as we learn how Jesus delegates his authority to the disciples and teaches them how to trust God to provide everything they need.

Mark 6:7-13 (From your bible, read aloud)

What stands out to you from this passage?

This must have been an amazing experience for the disciples as they went to the towns and villages to spread the good news and to anoint people for

healing. They experienced first hand what it was like to carry the authority of Jesus.

Mark 6:30-34 (From your bible, read aloud)

After an intense ministry experience, Jesus invites the disciples to take some time away to get some rest. But that plan changed once they got to their destination.

We can only imagine the disappointment the disciples may have felt when they realized there was more work to be done. But, Jesus responded to the needs of the crowd and he had compassion on them. They were like sheep without a shepherd.

Facts About Sheep

- Sheep have no sense of direction
- Sheep follow others blindly
- Sheep are unable to get up without help
- Sheep recognize their Shepherd's voice

It's not particularly flattering to be compared to sheep – but let's be honest, we are a lot like them. When Jesus saw them he was "gripped with compassion."

"The Message" version says that **when Jesus saw them, his heart broke**. The Good News Bible says that **his heart was filled with pity**. The New Revised Standard Version and the New International version both say that **he had compassion on them**. The original Greek word which was used here could be translated, **"...churning in his gut."** When he saw them he was moved.

Share about a time when you were moved with compassion? What did you do about it?

Jesus responded to the people by teaching them many things. But when it got late in the day the disciples came to him and told Jesus to send the people away so they could go get something to eat.

Mark 6:37-38 (From your bible, read aloud)

Just imagine how the disciples must have felt when Jesus asked them to feed the crowd. It is estimated that it would have cost nearly 8 months wages at that time to feed a crowd that size. What Jesus was asking was impossible for the disciples to do...on their own.

Somehow the disciples had already forgotten what they had experienced just prior to this day. They had literally carried the **authority of Jesus** with them and they got to be part of miraculous things. Jesus, in his generosity, is building their faith. He is showing them how God's Kingdom works. It isn't built on the abilities and resources of people – but it does require their willingness to surrender to the authority and power of God.

When the disciples discovered that there were only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, they knew it would not be enough to feed all the people. But they were about to get an amazing demonstration of what God can do with a little bit that is surrendered to him.

Mark 6:39-44 (From your bible, read aloud)

These 12 baskets full of broken pieces of bread and fish reveal both the great abundance and the magnitude of the miracle. In God's economy of abundant generosity- They ended up with more than they started with.

Jesus wasn't just giving them a meal – he was demonstrating the unlimited provision of God so that they could take the authority that He was giving them to go out into the world and to do the same things Jesus did.

What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen God do?

There are so many terrible things going on in the world and it can often feel as if there is nothing we can do about it. This is true when we look to ourselves to solve the problem. When we do this, one of two things will happen. Either you will be able to meet the need with your own resources, and you'll be in danger of becoming arrogant, or you won't be able to meet the need and you'll become depressed and discouraged.

Arrogance and depression are two sides of the same coin, and the coin is **self-reliance**. So, the test is, will you look to yourself or to God to meet these needs? Jesus is training the apostles to look away from themselves and to look to God to supply what is needed.

What are the issues or problems in the world that break your heart?

Jesus gives us a beautiful example of what it looks like to be prepared to live in his delegated authority.

- **I Do** – Jesus demonstrated what a life submitted to God's authority looked like
- **We Do** – Jesus invited the disciples to participate
- **You Do** – Jesus prepared them for the future when he would no longer be with them

➤ TAKE AWAY

A life submitted to God's authority will be filled with compassion, ready to use whatever we have to share God's love. It requires courage to believe that the little we have is enough when it is in God's hands as we remain deeply connected to God.

God is the ultimate authority. And the truth is, we are all living under some authority. You either serve God, or you serve someone else. Each one of us will have to make that choice.

What is one thing you could do this week to intentionally align yourself under God's authority?

Pray together, asking God to give you the opportunity to see the people around you and to be able to show compassion with God's help.