

WILL ANYONE TRUST JESUS?: Mark 6

INTRO: In Chapter 5 we saw Great Faith, but in Chapter 6 we will see Great Unbelief. Also, because Mark emphasizes the works of Jesus, miracles occupy a prominent place in Mark's Gospel.

Power over nature	(4:35-41)
Power over demons	(5:1-20)
Power over death	(5:21-24, 35-43)
<u>Power over disease</u>	<u>(5:25-34)</u>
Power restricted	(6:1-6a)
Power delegated	(6:6b-13)
Power recognized	(6:14-29)
Power at rest	(6:30-32)

I. Unbelief at Home (v. 1-6)

A. The People at Nazareth were Astonished. (v. 1-2)

1. (v. 1) "And He went out from there (Capernaum), and came into His own country (Nazareth): and His disciples follow Him."

- a. This could be the last time He was at Capernaum.
- b. Last time He was at Nazareth...
 - 1) Cf. [Luke 4:16-31](#).

2. (v. 2) "Mighty works"

- a. Gr. *dunamis* – "powers, forces, miracles, dynamics"

1) Jesus promised to give us a Helper, the Holy Spirit.

- a) "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another (of the exact same kind) Helper, that He may abide with you forever." (John 14:16)
- b) Jesus said, "But ye shall receive power (*dunamis*) after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you." (Acts 1:8)

2) The same power that Jesus had is given to you by the Holy Spirit!

- a) John 14:12 – "work" – Gr. different word; "toil; labor".
 1. Jesus said we would labor and toil greater than Him because He went to His Father. Now He can toil and labor through the church by giving us the *dunamis* of the Spirit.

B. The People of Nazareth were Offended. (v. 3-6)

1. (v. 3) "And they were offended at Him."

- a. "Offended" – Gr. *skandalizo* – "to stumble, shock, cause someone to trip and fall"
 - 1) These guys were trippin'!
 - 2) Jesus was a "stone of stumbling" to them because of their unbelief. (Cf. Isaiah 8:14; Romans 9:32-33; 1 Peter 2:8)
 - a) Paul said to the church at Corinth, "We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness."
- b. "The son of Mary."
 - 1) Joseph could be dead at this time.
 - 2) This could be a derogatory remark against Jesus because men were always called the son of their father. So they should have said, "The son of Joseph." But, they knew Joseph wasn't His biological father, and they thought He was illegitimate (virgin birth).
- c. "The brother of James, and Joses, and of Jude, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?"
 - 1) **Problem:** Roman Catholicism teaches that Mary was a perpetual virgin, that is, that she never had sexual intercourse, even after Jesus was virgin born. Is it true that when the Bible refers to Jesus' "brothers and sisters" (Matt. 13:56) it means cousins or close relatives?
 - 2) **Solution:** It is true that the words for brother and sister can mean close relative. This must be determined by the context and from other Scriptures. And in the case of Jesus' brothers and sisters, the context indicates they were his **real** half brothers and sisters.
 - a) Nowhere does the Bible affirm the doctrine of Mary's perpetual virginity.
 1. Like the Roman Catholic doctrine of Mary's sinlessness (cf. Luke 1:46), there is no statement anywhere in the Bible that supports this teaching.
 - b) When "brothers and sisters" are used in connection with father or mother, then it does not mean cousins, but actual blood brothers and sisters (cf. Luke 14:26). Such is the case with Jesus' brothers and sisters.
 - c) Third, there are other references in the Bible to Jesus' "brothers."

1. John informs us that "even His brothers did not believe in Him." (John 7:5)
2. Paul speaks of "James, the Lord's brother." (Gal. 1:19)
3. Mark refers to "His [Jesus'] brothers and His mother." (Mark 3:31)
4. John spoke of "His mother, His brothers, and His disciples." (John 2:12)
5. Luke mentions "Mary the mother of Jesus, with His brothers" being in the Upper Room. (Acts 1:14)
 - a. At first, they didn't believe in Him, but they got saved and were there on Pentecost.

2. (v. 4) Jesus claims to be a prophet.

3. (v. 5) "*He could do there no mighty works (powers).*"

- a. **Q** = Why not?... Because of their unbelief.
 - 1) Jesus' power was restricted – It wasn't that Jesus couldn't because of lack of power, but He couldn't because of their unbelief.
 - 2) Jesus didn't want to cast pearls before swine. He did miracles in the presence of faith.

4. (v. 6a) "*He marveled because of their unbelief.*"

- a. Lit. "*He was marveling.*"
 - 1) He could not believe that they did not accept Him.
 - a) Jesus was rejected.
 - b) The disciples were rejected. (v. 7-13)
 - c) You will be rejected.
 - 2) Don't be surprised if your family doesn't receive you. Don't be surprised if they don't honor you in Christ.
 - a) They will say, "We knew you when you used to..."

5. (v. 6b) "*He went round about the villages teaching.*"

- a. As far as we know, Jesus never returned to Nazareth.

- 1) **NOTE: There may come a day that you just never go home.**
- b. Jesus was more concerned about teaching the Word of God than doing miracles.

II. The Unbelief of His Enemies. (v. 7-29)

A. Power Delegated – Sending Out Two By Two. (v. 7-13)

1. (v. 7a) “He began to send them forth by two and two.”

a. Jesus’ Method of Discipleship:

1) Direct Teaching (Lecture).

a) Ephesians 4:11-15.

2) Mentoring.

a) Mark 3:12; John 13:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:1.

b) Not “modeling” because you can do that far away. This involves relationship, and it’s messy.

3) Guided Practice.

a) Letting them do things while you’re with them and teach them. Even letting them make mistakes and fail (Matt 17:14-21).

4) Independent Practice.

a) Letting them go out on their own and have them bring back a report.

b) This is what Jesus is doing here. They will bring back a report.

5) Entrust to Faithful Men.

a) 2 Timothy 2:2.

b) This is passing the baton and saying, “See ya in heaven. Adios.”

2. (v. 7b) “He gave them power over unclean spirits.”

a. “power” – Gr. *exousia* – “authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.”

1) **Then:** Jesus has the *dunamis* (power, force), so He gave the disciples *exousia* (authority, strength).

2) **Today:** Now that Jesus is resurrected, He has all *exousia* (authority) in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18), and He told us to make disciples. And we are enabled to do so

because He gives us *dunamis* (power) when the Holy Spirit comes upon us (Acts 1:8).

3) **KEY: Discipleship happens because we have Jesus' authority, and we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.**

b. These disciples had the authority of Jesus Christ.

3. (v. 8-9)

- a. **Probelm:** In Matthew, Jesus seems to say that the disciples should not take a staff, but in Mark it appears that He allows them to have one...
- b. **Solution:** Mark's account is saying that they may take the staff that they have, while Matthew is saying that they should not take an extra staff or tunic.
- c. **NOTE:** Jesus is teaching them that God will supply all your needs.
 - 1) **KEY: All these directions are not intended to inflict hardship on the disciples, but to relieve them of all worry about their bodily needs.**

4. (v. 10) "There abide till ye depart from that place."

- a. Jesus didn't want them to find better accommodations from someone down the street. He wanted them to minister where they were.

5. (v. 11) "Shake the dust off your feet."

- a. Devout Jews did this when they left Gentile territory to show that they were dissociating themselves from it. This will tell the Jewish hearers they were acting like pagans in rejecting the disciples' message.¹

6. (v. 12) "Repent"

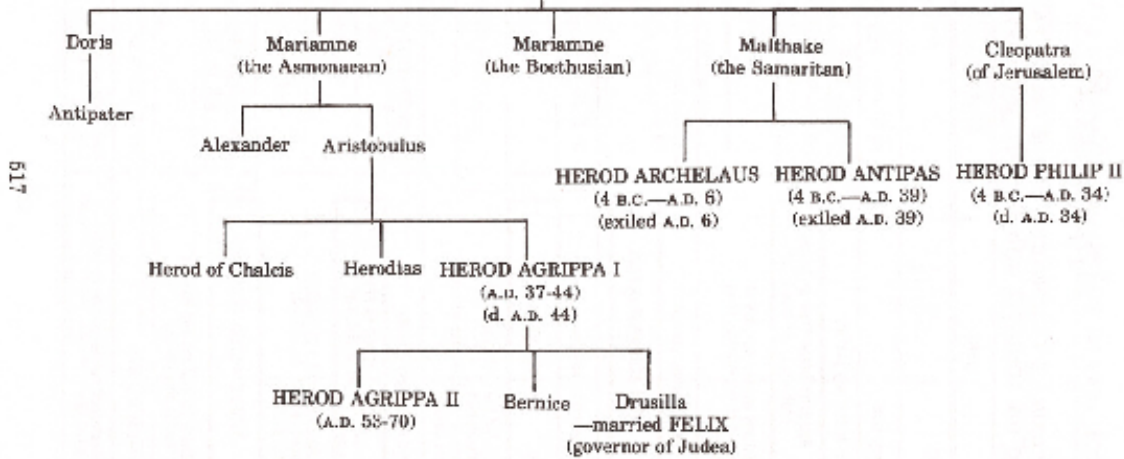
- a. Gr. – "to undergo a change in frame of mind and feeling; to make a change of principle and practice, to reform."

B. Herod's Sin vs. John the Baptist's Righteousness. (v. 14-29)

1. Show Herod Family Tree.

Appendix A

The Herodian Family
HEROD THE GREAT*
 King of Judea
 37-4 B.C.



* Names of kings noted in the New Testament are capitalized

2. (v. 27) John the Baptist beheaded.

- a. John stood up for righteousness, and some would say...
 - 1) "That's not the way to get ahead in life."
 - 2) "You really need to be more headstrong."
 - 3) "He'll never be the head of a major corporation."
 - 4) "He's going lose it because he's headed in the God's direction."
- b. Jesus said, "If you try to save your life, you'll lose it, but if you lose your life for His sake, you'll find it." (8:35)
 - 1) Even if they kill you, you will never be sorry if you stand up for righteousness. That's the way to get ahead in life!
 - 2) "God gives grace to the humble, and resists the proud."

III. The Unbelief of His Disciples. (v. 30-56)

A. Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand – The Servant Shepherd. (v. 30-44)

1. (v. 31) It been said that if you don't "come apart," you'll fall apart.

2. (v. 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."

- a. Josephus, the Jewish historian, was governor for a time in the area of Galilee, and he said that "there were **204 villages** in the area of the Galilee and each with a **population of at least 15,000 people**,"² thus about **3 ½ million people** in the Galilee region!

3. NOTE: This is the Only Parabolic Miracle in the N.T.!

- a. This is the **only** miracle that is recorded in **all 4 Gospels!**
 - 1) How important must this miracle be that the Holy Spirit would record it in all 4 Gospels, and it is the only miracle He did that for?
- b. This miracle was a parable.
 - 1) "*Parable*" = "*to cast alongside*", thus, a parable is an illustration that is placed alongside a teaching.
- c. **Q** = What are the Truths being illustrated in this miracle?...

1) Jesus is the Bread of Life.

a) **John 6:30-35, 47-68.**

b) The Bread was blessed.

- 1. "This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased."

c) The Bread was broken.

- 1. At the Last Supper, Jesus said, "Take eat, this is My body which is broken for you."

2) The Disciples distribute the Bread to the multitude.

a) When did the miracles occur?...

- 1. Did Jesus multiply the bread and put it in baskets until it was as tall as a tree, and the disciples said, "Now we have enough bread to feed the whole multitude?"

2. **NOTE: The miracle occurred as they *distributed* the Bread!**

b) **KEY: As we distribute the Bread of Life to the multitudes, the Lord will multiply and feed them!**

- 1. God delights in using little things (i.e. 5 loaves, 2 fish)... so doesn't that include you?

4. (v. 39) "Green grass."

- a. It was near Passover season (John 6:4), so the open spaces would be covered with green grass, an ideal place for dining in the open. Later on, this grass would become dry.
- b. Jesus is the Good Shephard. (v. 34, 39)
 - 1) **Psalm 23:1-2** says, "*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...*"
 - 2) **Ezekiel 34:15-16** says "*I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick...*"
 - 3) **Isaiah 40:11** says, "*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.*"

5. (v. 43) "And they took up twelve baskets full."

- a. Jesus doesn't waste anything.
 - 1) Paul said, "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*" (1 Cor. 15:58)
 - 2) **KEY: Anything you do for the Lord, He will use it. It's not a waste.**

B. Jesus Walking On Water. (v. 45-52)

1. (v. 45a) "And straightway He constrained His disciples to get into the boat."

- a. Cf. **John 6:14-15**.
 - 1) Jesus did this so hastily because the people were going to take Him by force and make Him a king, but it wasn't time yet.

2. (v. 45b) "Go to the other side before unto Bethsaida."

- a. Mark says that they were going "toward Bethsaida," but John writes that they were going "to Capernaum," and the next day went to Capernaum. Is this a contradiction? No!...
 - 1) There were two Bethsaidas.

- a) N.E. shore of Sea of Galilee called "Bethsaida Julius."
- b) N.W. shore of Sea of Galilee called "Bethsaida of Galilee."
- 2) The disciples were sailing from "Julius" to "Bethsaida of Galilee."
 - a) Bethsaida of Galilee was a suburb of Capernaum, and so either place could be named as the destination.
 - 1. **Illust.** – If I was going to Del Mar, I could say I was going to San Diego because Del Mar is in San Diego.

3. (v. 52) **"For their heart was hardened."**

a. **The unbelief of the disciples.**

b. **Unbelief comes from an evil heart.**

- 1) Hebrews 3:12-15 tells us, *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation."*

c. **The way to overcome unbelief is Repentance.**

- 1) "Repentance" = "change of the mind"
- 2) **KEY: We can change our mind, then God can change our heart.**

C. **Jesus' Healing Touch. (v. 53-56)**

1. (v. 53a) **"They passed over."**

- a. In verse 45, Jesus told them to go to the other side, and His Word was fulfilled once again.

2. (v. 53b) **"They came into the land of Gennesaret."**

- a. Some scholars believe that...
 - 1) Bethsaida Julius (east of the Jordan River) spread across to the western side of the Jordan and was called "Bethsaida of Galilee" (John 12:21; 1:44; Mark 1:21, 29),

a fishing suburb of Capernaum (cf. John 6:17). The disciples sailed for this town from the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee but were blown off course southward, eventually landing at Gennesaret on the western shore.³

- 2) Jesus and the twelve landed at Capernaum and spoke about Him being the Bread of Life (John 6:17, 21), and that some days after that He visited Gennesaret. The aorist participle "having crossed over" is quite general, fixes no time, and in the present connection means that when Jesus was through with His work at Capernaum, He sailed over to Gennesaret.⁴
- 3) The name, possibly a changed name of the older Chinneroth (Numbers 34:11; Joshua 11:2; 12:3), belonged to the western shore of the lake to which it gave one of its titles, and included Capernaum, to which John 6:17, 24, the disciples were steering.⁵
- 4) The land of Gennesaret, and not the town of Gennesaret, is mentioned. Thus, Bethsaida of Galilee and Capernaum are included.

IV. Will YOU trust Jesus?...

¹ BKC Walvoord. Mark 6:10-11. p. 128

² Barclay, William. Mark

³ BKC Walvoord. Mark 6:45-46. p. 131.

⁴ Lenski. p. 278

⁵ Ellicott's. p. 89-90.