

FG Midweek

The Gospel of Mark

Class 7: Mark 6:33-56

Good evening! Welcome back to our Midweek gathering. This time on Wednesday nights focuses on equipping you to do the work of ministry. God calls you to do more than just sit on the sideline—He has a plan and He has a purpose for you in His mission. Wednesday nights serve as an opportunity for you to learn, be built up, and to be equipped to the ministry that God has called you to.

- 1. Who is the father of James and John?**
- 2. What kind of animal hair were John the Baptist's clothes made from?**
- 3. How many years had the woman whom Jesus healed had a discharge of blood?**
- 4. What is the name of the group of Jewish leaders who were responsible for keeping records and at times providing legal counsel?**
- 5. A disciple of Jesus is an individual who is _____ Jesus and _____ Jesus.**
- 6. What is the name of the literary device where words and phrases are mirrored in the passage to highlight the central message of the text?**
- 7. How many chapters are there in the Gospel of Mark?**
- 8. What form did the Holy Spirit take when Jesus was baptized?**
- 9. How many pigs died when the legion of demons entered them and ran off the cliff?**
- 10. Finish the quote of Jesus: "A prophet is not without honor except in his _____"**

Reminder: study in spring, share in fall

REVIEW

In the first three chapters of Mark, Jesus is introduced as the long-awaited Messiah and divine Lord. Following Jesus requires repentance and faith, but also requires counting the cost. We will face opposition because Jesus faced opposition. And still, we are called to live with faithfulness,

boldness, and perseverance in the face of opposition. Amidst examples of false disciples, we see that the mark of a true disciple is one who is both with Jesus and sent out by Jesus. Parables are introduced by Jesus as a means to distinguish between those who rightly respond to the kingdom of God and those who don't. After the introduction of the parables, we have another showing of the power of Jesus, over the natural, supernatural, physical, and even over death. But He is nonetheless rejected in His own hometown. After the parables, Jesus sends His disciples out to share the gospel. They will experience opposition, as is highlighted by John the Baptist's murder at the hands of King Herod.

The seventh section in Mark highlights Jesus as a better king—one who has power over nature and sickness.

The Gospel of Mark

- Mark 6:7-32
 - The section is another Markan sandwich. It begins with Jesus sending His disciples out to share the gospel and ends with His disciples returning. In the middle, we learn of John the Baptist's beheading at the hands of King Herod, illustrating the opposition that disciples of Jesus will face.
 - 6:7-13: Jesus sends His disciples out to share the gospel. Opposition is hinted as Jesus gives them instructions on what to do if their message is rejected.
 - 6:14-29: John the Baptist is beheaded by King Herod, showing the height of opposition and foreshadowing the death of Jesus.
 - 6:30-32: The disciples return and Jesus shows them kindness by inviting them to rest.
 - Application & Takeaways
 - The main point in this passage is that disciples are called to live on mission for God, but will undoubtedly face opposition. And yet, in the face of that opposition, we are called to live in obedience, faithfulness, and steadfastness before the Lord, knowing that any price is worth the cost.

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Mark 6:33-56

Following the Markan sandwich is 6:7-32, this section focuses on the contrast between Jesus and Herod, along with the power of Jesus. Where Herod held a feast for his own pomp and reputation, Jesus held his own “feast” of sorts. Instead of serving Himself, Jesus serves others and provides for them. This, of course, is the nature of Jesus. We see His heart in the way He serves, but we also see the power that He has over creation—displayed in His walking on the water, and His healing of the sick in Gennesaret.

This passage has three sections:

Text	Description	Summary
6:33-44	Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The crowds flock to Jesus constantly. They believe that He has the power to heal.• Despite the constant crowds, Jesus is patient and has compassion on them. This is incredible!• There is an allusion to Numbers 27:16-17: “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation 17 who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.”• This feeding of the five thousand should also make us recall the way God provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness.• When faced with the problem of feeding thousands, the disciples want to send the people away, but Jesus wants to provide for them. Interestingly enough, Jesus asks the disciples to give them something to eat. He invites them into his ministry of provision.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Part of what it means to be a disciple is to take part in the ministry of Jesus through His power.
6:45-52	Jesus Walks on Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jesus makes His disciples get in the boat and go to the other side of the sea. ● Similar to the previous section, we ought to be reminded of the exodus story here. The crossing of the sea on dry land ought to loom large in the mind of any Israelite, as it stands toward the center of their identity as God's people. Rather than crossing the sea on dry ground, Jesus does something even more miraculous: He walks on the water. ● The sea is often a motif or a symbol of death throughout the Bible. In this passage, we clearly see the power of Jesus over creation, but perhaps there is also a foreshadowing of Jesus' triumph over death as He walks on the water. The tempestuous seas that so easily toss the boat to and fro, threatening death are no match for the Son of God who has power over creation, and even over death. ● The response of the disciples is once again less than ideal. They respond as the crowds so often do: with fear rather than faith. Rather than rightly identifying Jesus as the divine Son of God, they thought it was a ghost. ● Mark highlights the disciples' failure to see and understand Jesus. If they had just seen Him feed five thousand, could He not also walk on water? The author is intentionally showing the shortcomings of the disciples. ● Interestingly, Mark brings up the disciples' lack of understanding with the loaves here after this episode. This ties these two scenes together—but what is Mark getting at here? Again, the mentioning of the loaves highlights the

		<p>failure of the disciples to see Jesus as the Son of God and their inability to understand amidst many great signs and wonders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their hardened hearts reveal the need for blind eyes to be opened and hearts to be softened to the truth.
6:53-56	Jesus Heals the Sick in Gennesaret	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disciples finally cross over and land in Gennesaret. • Mark now contrasts the reception Jesus receives from the crowds to the reception He received from the disciples on the water. The disciples feared Him and thought Him a ghost, whereas the people “immediately recognized Him and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard He was.” • The crowds had seemingly heard of the story with the woman who had the discharge of blood. She had only touched the hem of His garment and was healed. Now the crowds come that they might even touch the fringe of Christ’s garments. • Again and again Mark shows the differing responses of characters in the gospel. We are continually faced with the question: who do you say Jesus is?

Sharing This Passage With an Unbeliever

The beginning of this section is an excellent opportunity to share that the way of Jesus is so much greater than the way of the world. Where Herod lives for himself, Jesus lives for others. Where Herod throws a feast in his own honor, Jesus provides a feast for those in need. Where Herod kills others, Jesus dies for His people.

Likewise, we continue to return to the power of Jesus over creation. Walking on water reminds us that Jesus is Lord over all. Healing the sick points us to the reality that Jesus has the power

over death. This foreshadows what is to come in the resurrection—Jesus will one day be raised from the dead, and when He is, He claims victory over sin and death forever. He heals others, He can heal you too.

The continual question is once again worth highlighting: who do you say Jesus is?

Conclusion

When we take a step back and look at 6:7-6:56, we see the following structure:

6:7-32: Jesus instructs His disciples how to engage in the ministry of discipleship

6:32-45: Jesus illustrates the ministry of discipleship—caring, revealing, sharing

6:45-56: The disciples still fail to understand Jesus and engage in the ministry of discipleship

This begs the question—will the disciples ever get it? Furthermore, what do disciples need to display in order to move in the right direction? The answer is faith, which we will see highlighted next week!