

## Mark: Chapter 6

- I. A Prophet in his Hometown (v.1-6)
  - A. Jesus returns to Nazareth (v.1-2a)
    1. Nazareth (John 1:46)
    2. Parallel passage or precursory passage? Luke 4:16-30 (alone there)
    3. Last synagogue teaching in Mark (John 1:11)
  - B. Jesus's reception by the Nazarenes (v.2b-3)
    1. Two reactions, five questions
    2. Astonishment like Mark 1:22
    3. Q1, Q2 - acknowledging the supernatural nature of the wisdom
    4. Q3 - acknowledging supernatural power
    5. Q4, Q5 - appealing to their knowledge of Jesus; insult in son of Mary (Luke 4:22; John 8:38-41); family of Christ (James 1:1; Jude 1)
  - C. Jesus's response to Nazarene unbelief (v.4-6)
    1. Mark 3:21 - three areas of increasing personal relation
    2. Power limited (Matthew 13:58), not by God but by unbelief (Luke 18:9-14; James 4:6; Hebrews 11; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 12:44-50)
    3. Two instances of Jesus marveling - (Luke 7:9; Matthew 8:10) and here; emphasis on unbelief not unkindness
- II. A Short-Term Missions Trip (v.7-13)
  - A. The Disciples' Mission (v.7)
    1. Shift in ministry from sole minister to delegating authority
    2. Different than Legion-possessed man; not a personal testimony about Jesus but an authority to preach the kingdom of God
    3. Ministering in pairs and groups (c.f. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Acts)
    4. Miracles authenticate message (Luke 9:2)
  - B. The Disciples' Charge (v.8-11)
    1. Principle of dependence
      - a) Matthew 6:25-26, 33 - Disciples present for teaching
      - b) Luke 22:35 - commentary (see Luke 22:36, not asceticism)
    2. Principle of contentment
      - a) Mark 6:10 + Matthew 10:11-13; stay in the worthy house, the house that listens to the message
      - b) Resist using their powers for gain, but instead teaching and ministering to, and being supported by, the "worthy"
    3. Principle of truth
      - a) One primary action, three qualifying statements
      - b) Matthew 7:6; Proverbs 9:8 - discernment

- c) Make it obvious (as a testimony against them) that they are rejecting the truth, and implications (c.f. Ezekiel 33:7-9)

C. The Disciples' Obedience (v.12-13)

1. Harkening back to Mark 1:15
2. Miracles adjoined to the preaching

III. A Prophet's Death (v.14-29)

A. Overview

1. Only time Jesus mentioned is in first verse
2. Luke 7:28; Matthew 11:11 - no one greater than John

B. Serious Speculation (v.14-16)

1. Confusion about the Son of Man (c.f. Mark 4:41) - they don't deny the miracles, but ironically believe that John would be raised from the dead
2. Elijah the prophet (Malachi 4:5)
  - a) Ministry of miracles
  - b) Confronted false prophets (1 Kings 18:36-40)
3. Comparison
  - a) Similarly clothed (2 Kings 1:8; Mark 1:6)
  - b) Stood firm on the Lord's commands and called people to repentance during a period of spiritual apostasy (1 Kings 18:17-18; Matthew 3:7-12)
  - c) Hunted by the "king's wife" (Jezebel in 1 Kings 19:1-3; Herodias in Mark 6:19-20)
  - d) Luke 1:17 directly calling out the parallel
  - e) But John is not Elijah (John 1:19-23)
  - f) But Jesus says he *would* have been Elijah (Matthew 11:13-14)
  - g) "if you are willing to accept it"
  - h) Prophecy (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1a; Luke 7:27)
4. Prophets of old
  - a) Moses's saying (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19)
  - b) Jesus was indeed that prophet (Acts 3:17-26)
  - c) But the people were saying one of the prophets had risen, not seeing that Jesus was *the* prophesied prophet
5. "whom I beheaded" - fear, guilt

C. Situational Setup (v.17-20)

1. Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great
2. Herod the Great had Philip, who had several wives
3. Herod Antipas enamored with Herodias, stealing her from his brother (Leviticus 18:16, 20:21)
4. "had been saying" - probably repeated rebuke

5. Herod feared John - reverential fear, likely from reflection of the character of God
- D. Severe Slip-up (v.21-29)
1. Extravagance; nobles, military commanders, leading men of Galilee
  2. Herod's vow - Reminiscent of Oriental monarchs (Esther 5:6, 7:2)
  3. Choice to follow through with the request (pride) - refusing to go back on his word in front of his guests > earlier fear
- IV. A Massive Feast (v.30-44)
- A. Overview
1. Aside from resurrection, only passage in all four gospels
- B. Returning from the Short-term Missions Trip (v.30-32)
1. Actions separated, like Jesus's ministry, but grammatically, done comes first, perhaps indicating apostles' focus
  2. Intense demands and Jesus's compassion in calling Disciples to rest
- C. Receiving the Great Crowd (v.33-34)
1. Great crowd - probably take about four miles by sea, eight miles by foot from Capernaum to Bethsaida
  2. Jesus just called Disciples to rest, but then has compassion on the crowd - not a religion of workaholism, even though Jesus's ministry was a specific time
  3. Source of compassion - sheep without a shepherd
    - a) For ages Jews leading down a path of spiritual decline - splitting of the northern / southern kingdoms, etc.
    - b) Ezekiel 34:1-19; John 10:11
- D. Rebutting the Apostles' Request (v.35-38)
1. Teaching until "it grew late"
  2. Calculating two hundred denarii; same disciples who witnessed Jesus' power over nature (Mark 4:39-41), casting out numerous demons (Mark 1:26, 34; 5:8-13), healing the sick (Mark 1:34, 42; 2:11-12; 3:5; 5:34), doing the same acts (Mark 6:13)
  3. More like biscuits and fish relish than huge loaves and massive fish
- E. Rationing the Loaves and Fishes (v.39-44)
1. Five things
    - a) Looked up to heaven, acknowledging God as Giver
    - b) Said a blessing
    - c) Broke the loaves
    - d) Gave them to the disciples
    - e) Divided the fish
  2. Follow-up in John 6:25-40; John 6:66-71
- V. A Second Storm (v.45-56)

- A. The Struggle of the Disciples (v.45-48a)
    - 1. Likely motivation in John 6:15
    - 2. Jesus communes with his Father
    - 3. Context
      - a) Jesus and Disciples separated
      - b) Disciples struggling
      - c) God's timing in the trial (Isaiah 55:8-9; James 1:2-4)
  - B. The Coming Alongside of Jesus (v.48b-52)
    - 1. ~3 to 6 am (Roman division of the night)
    - 2. Probably intention to come alongside the boat and not completely bypass
    - 3. Quelling the storm in the Disciples' hearts
      - a) Take heart (c.f. Matthew 9:2, 22; 14:27; John 16:33)
      - b) It is I
      - c) Do not be afraid
    - 4. Astounded disciples (Matthew 14:33) - had faith, but spiritually unperceptive
  - C. The Continued Ministry of Christ (v.53-56)
    - 1. Implored him that they might touch even the fringe (Mark 5:25)
    - 2. Non-discriminatory common grace of God
- VI. Homework - Go and share what you've been learning with someone!





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