CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Mark Chapter 6 —
Rejection, Martyrdom, Miracles, and Faith

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Mark Chapter 6 is full of contrasts.

It begins with rejection.

Jesus returns to Nazareth, and the people who knew Him best refuse to believe.

Then Jesus sends out the Twelve.

They go with almost nothing except His authority.

Then Mark tells a dark story.

King Herod had John the Baptist beheaded at a birthday party.

The faithful messenger paid for the truth with his life.

Then the light shines again.

Jesus feeds five thousand men, plus women and children, with five loaves and two fish.

That night He walks on the water to His frightened disciples.

And the chapter ends with crowds bringing the sick to Him, and all who touch Him are healed.

Through it all, Mark shows two responses to Jesus.

Unbelief that shuts Him out.

And faith that reaches out to Him.

The chapter moves through six movements:

- Jesus Rejected at Nazareth (verses 1–6).
- The Twelve Sent Out (verses 7–13).
- The Death of John the Baptist (verses 14–29).
- Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (verses 30–44).
- Jesus Walks on Water (verses 45–52).
- Healings at Gennesaret (verses 53–56).

The central truth of Mark 6 is:

Jesus is the compassionate Shepherd and Lord over creation who provides for His people and sends them out in His power, and while unbelief shuts Him out and faithfulness may cost everything, those who come to Him in faith find Him more than enough.

I. BACK TO HIS HOMETOWN

Mark 6:1 — Returning to Nazareth

“Jesus left that place and returned to His hometown, accompanied by His disciples.”

“Jesus left that place.”

He had just raised Jairus' daughter.

“And returned to His hometown.”

Jesus went back to Nazareth, where He grew up.

“Accompanied by His disciples.”

He came not as a private visitor but as a teacher with followers.

The people of Nazareth would have to decide what they thought of Him.

Cross References

Matthew 13:54

> He went to His hometown and taught the people in their synagogue.

Luke 4:16

> Jesus went to Nazareth, the town where He grew up. On the Sabbath He went into the synagogue, as He usually did.

John 4:44

> Jesus Himself had said that a prophet is not respected in his own country.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus offers Himself even to those who think they already know Him.

Key Truth

Familiarity can be the hardest barrier to faith.

II. WHERE DID HE GET THIS?

Mark 6:2 — Astonished in the Synagogue

“On the Sabbath He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were astonished. They asked, “Where did this man get these things? What wisdom has been given Him, and how are these mighty works done by His hands?”

“Many who heard Him were astonished.”

They could not deny His wisdom.

“Where did this man get these things?”

This was the right question.

But they gave the wrong answer.

“How are these mighty works done by His hands?”

They knew about His miracles.

Yet they would not accept where His power came from.

Cross References

Matthew 13:54

> The people were amazed and asked, “Where did this man get such wisdom and power to do miracles?”

Luke 4:22

> Everyone spoke well of Him and was surprised at the gracious words He said. They asked, “Isn't this Joseph's son?”

John 7:15

> The Jewish leaders were amazed and said, “How does this man know so much when He never studied?”

Spiritual Principle

Being amazed by Jesus is not the same as believing in Him.

Key Truth

The right question can still lead to the wrong conclusion.

III. ISN'T THIS THE CARPENTER?

Mark 6:3 — They Took Offense

“Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? Are His sisters not here with us?” And they were offended at Him.”

“Is this not the carpenter?”

The word means a builder who worked with wood or stone.

Jesus had worked with His hands among them.

“The son of Mary.”

In that culture, a man was usually called by his father's name.

Calling Him “son of Mary” may have been an insult, hinting at rumors about His birth.

“The brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon.”

As noted in Chapter 3, Christians understand these “brothers” in different ways.

James later became a leader in the Jerusalem church, and Judas is often thought to be the writer of the letter of Jude.

“And they were offended at Him.”

The word means they stumbled over Him.

They could not accept that someone so ordinary could be so great.

Cross References

Matthew 13:55

> Isn't He the carpenter's son? Isn't His mother named Mary, and aren't His brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?

Luke 4:22

> They said, “Isn't this the son of Joseph?”

John 6:42

> They said, “This is Jesus, Joseph's son. We know His father and mother. How can He say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

Spiritual Principle

God often works through what seems ordinary.

Spiritual Warning

Do not let what you think you know about Jesus keep you from knowing Him.

IV. A PROPHET WITHOUT HONOR

Mark 6:4 — In His Own Town

“But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives, and in his own household.””

Jesus used a common saying.

People often respect a stranger more than someone they grew up with.

Jesus felt this rejection from three circles.

- His own town.
- His relatives.
- His own household.

The people closest to Him were the slowest to believe.

Cross References

Matthew 13:57

> Jesus said to them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own town and in his own home.”

Luke 4:24

> He said, “The truth is, no prophet is welcomed in his hometown.”

John 4:44

> Jesus had pointed out that a prophet gets no honor in his own country.

Spiritual Principle

Those closest to us may be the hardest to reach.

Key Truth

Jesus understands the pain of rejection by those who know you best.

V. HE COULD DO NO GREAT MIRACLE THERE

Mark 6:5 — Only a Few Healed

“He could do no great miracle there, except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them.”

“He could do no great miracle there.”

This does not mean Jesus lost His power.

He had just raised the dead.

It means He would not force His works on people who refused to believe.

His miracles were meant to be received by faith.

“Except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them.”

Even in a town of unbelief, a few came to Him.

And Jesus healed them.

Grace still reached those who would receive it.

Cross References

Matthew 13:58

> He did not do many miracles there because they did not believe.

Luke 4:23

> Jesus said, “You will surely say to Me, ‘Do the same miracles here in Your hometown that we heard You did in Capernaum.’”

2 Kings 5:11

> But Naaman got angry and went away. He said, “I thought he would come out and call on the Lord his God and wave his hand over the spot and heal me.”

Spiritual Principle

Unbelief shuts the door to many blessings God wants to give.

Key Truth

Jesus' power was not limited, but their hearts were closed.

VI. HE MARVELED AT THEIR UNBELIEF

Mark 6:6 — Teaching in Other Villages

“And He marveled at their unbelief. Then He went around to the surrounding villages, teaching.”

“He marveled at their unbelief.”

Jesus was amazed.

Only twice in the Gospels is Jesus said to be amazed.

Once at a Gentile soldier's great faith.

Here, at His hometown's great unbelief.

“Then He went around to the surrounding villages, teaching.”

Rejection did not stop Jesus.

He kept going.

He took the message elsewhere.

Cross References

Matthew 9:35

> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the good news of the kingdom.

Luke 13:22

> Jesus went through towns and villages, teaching as He traveled toward Jerusalem.

John 12:37

> Even though Jesus had done so many miracles in front of them, they still did not believe in Him.

Spiritual Principle

Rejection should not stop us from sharing the message.

Application

Do you keep going when people reject your witness?

VII. TWO BY TWO

Mark 6:7 — Sent with Authority

“Jesus called the Twelve and began sending them out two by two. He gave them authority over unclean spirits.”

“Jesus called the Twelve.”

The men chosen in Chapter 3 were now ready to be sent.

“And began sending them out two by two.”

Jesus did not send them alone.

Partners encourage each other.

The law also required two witnesses to confirm a matter.

“He gave them authority over unclean spirits.”

They went with Jesus' own power.

Cross References

Matthew 10:1

> Jesus called His twelve followers together and gave them power over evil spirits and the power to heal every sickness.

Luke 9:1

> Jesus called the Twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases.

Luke 10:1

> After this the Lord chose seventy-two others and sent them out two by two ahead of Him to every town and place He was about to visit.

Spiritual Principle

God sends His servants together, with His power.

Key Truth

No one is meant to serve Christ alone.

VIII. TAKE NOTHING

Mark 6:8 — Only a Staff

“He instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bag, no bread, no money in their belts—”

“Take nothing for the journey except a staff.”

A walking stick for the road.

“No bag.”

No beggar's bag for collecting money.

“No bread.”

No food supply.

“No money in their belts.”

Men often carried coins in their belts.

Jesus was teaching them to trust God completely.

They would depend on God's care and the hospitality of others.

This was a special instruction for this mission.

Cross References

Matthew 10:9

> Do not carry any gold, silver, or copper money in your belts.

Luke 9:3

> He told them, “Take nothing for the trip: no walking stick, no bag, no bread, no money, and no extra shirt.”

Luke 10:4

> Do not carry a money bag, a traveling bag, or sandals.

Spiritual Principle

God's servants must depend on God, not on their own resources.

Application

Are you trusting God or your own resources?

IX. SANDALS AND ONE TUNIC

Mark 6:9 — Traveling Light

“but to wear sandals and not take an extra tunic.”

“But to wear sandals.”

They could wear simple shoes for walking.

“And not take an extra tunic.”

A tunic was the main garment.

An extra one was useful for cold nights.

But they were to travel light.

The details in Matthew and Luke differ slightly, such as about the staff and sandals.

Many Bible students explain this as different ways of saying the same thing: take only the bare necessities, nothing extra.

Cross References

Matthew 10:10

> Do not take a bag for the trip, extra clothes, sandals, or a walking stick. A worker should be given what he needs.

Luke 9:3

> Do not take an extra shirt.

Luke 10:4

> Do not take money, a bag, or shoes.

Spiritual Principle

Simplicity helps us focus on our mission.

Key Truth

The less we carry, the more we must trust God.

X. STAY IN ONE HOUSE

Mark 6:10 — Until You Leave

“He said, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town.”

When someone welcomed them, they were to stay there.

They were not to move from house to house looking for better food or comfort.

This would show contentment.

It would also honor those who first welcomed them.

Cross References

Matthew 10:11

> When you enter a city or village, find someone worthy and stay there until you leave.

Luke 9:4

> Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town.

Luke 10:7

> Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you, because a worker deserves to be paid. Do not move from house to house.

Spiritual Principle

God's servants should be content with the provision God gives.

Key Truth

Contentment honors both God and those who serve us.

XI. SHAKE OFF THE DUST

Mark 6:11 — A Testimony Against Them

“If any place will not receive you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.””

“If any place will not receive you.”

Some would reject them.

“Shake the dust off your feet.”

When Jews left Gentile lands, they sometimes shook off the dust.

It showed they were separating themselves.

“As a testimony against them.”

It was a solemn warning.

The town had rejected God's message.

“More tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah.”

Sodom was famous for wickedness.

But rejecting Jesus' own messengers was even more serious.

Greater light brings greater responsibility.

Cross References

Matthew 10:15

> I tell you the truth, on judgment day it will be better for Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

Luke 9:5

> If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet as you leave their town, as a warning to them.

Acts 13:51

> So Paul and Barnabas shook the dust off their feet against them and went to Iconium.

Spiritual Principle

Rejecting God's message is a serious matter.

Key Truth

The more light we receive, the more we are responsible for.

XII. THEY PREACHED REPENTANCE

Mark 6:12 — The Message

“So they went out and preached that people should repent.”

They obeyed.

Their message was the same as John's and Jesus' message.

Turn from sin.

Turn to God.

Repentance is always the starting point of the good news.

Cross References

Matthew 10:7

> As you go, preach this message: “The kingdom of heaven is near.”

Luke 9:6

> So they left and went through the villages, preaching the good news and healing people everywhere.

Luke 24:47

> Starting in Jerusalem, people of every nation will be told in His name that they must turn from sin and can be forgiven.

Spiritual Principle

The call to repent is at the heart of the gospel message.

Key Truth

The good news always calls people to turn around.

XIII. DEMONS DRIVEN OUT, SICK HEALED

Mark 6:13 — Anointing with Oil

“They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil, healing them.”

“They drove out many demons.”

Jesus' authority worked through them.

“And anointed many sick people with oil.”

Oil was used as medicine in those days.

It was also a sign of God's blessing and the Holy Spirit's presence.

“Healing them.”

God's power was at work through ordinary men who obeyed Jesus.

Cross References

Luke 9:6

> They traveled from village to village, preaching the good news and healing people everywhere.

James 5:14

> If one of you is sick, send for the leaders of the church. They should pray for that person and rub oil on him in the Lord's name.

Matthew 10:8

> Make the sick well, bring the dead back to life, cleanse people with skin diseases, and send demons away. You did not pay for what you got, so do not charge others.

Spiritual Principle

God works powerfully through ordinary people who obey Him.

Key Truth

The power was Jesus'; the obedience was theirs.

XIV. HEROD HEARD

Mark 6:14 — Rumors About Jesus

“King Herod heard about Jesus, for His name had become well known. Some said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why these powers are at work in Him.””

“King Herod heard about Jesus.”

This was Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great.

He ruled Galilee for Rome.

People called him king, though his title was really tetrarch, a lesser ruler.

“For His name had become well known.”

The ministry of the Twelve had spread Jesus' fame even more.

“John the Baptist has been raised from the dead.”

Some believed Jesus was John come back to life.

Cross References

Matthew 14:1

> At that time Herod, the ruler of Galilee, heard the reports about Jesus.

Luke 9:7

> Herod the ruler heard about everything that was happening and was confused, because some people said John had risen from the dead.

Matthew 16:14

> They answered, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Spiritual Principle

Everyone must decide who Jesus is.

Key Truth

Even kings must deal with the question of Jesus.

XV. ELIJAH OR A PROPHET

Mark 6:15 — Other Opinions

“Others said, “He is Elijah,” and still others, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.””

People had many opinions.

“He is Elijah.”

The Old Testament promised Elijah would come before the day of the Lord.

“He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.”

Others saw Him as a great prophet.

All these answers honored Jesus.

But none were big enough.

Jesus is more than a prophet.

He is the Son of God.

Cross References

Matthew 16:14

> Some say You are John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or another prophet.

Luke 9:8

> Others said Elijah had appeared, and still others said one of the prophets of long ago had come back to life.

Deuteronomy 18:15

> From among your own people, the Lord your God will send you a prophet like me. Pay attention to what He says.

Spiritual Principle

Good opinions about Jesus are not enough; we must know who He truly is.

Key Truth

Calling Jesus a great prophet is not big enough.

XVI. JOHN, WHOM I BEHEADED

Mark 6:16 — A Guilty Conscience

“But when Herod heard this, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!””

Herod's conscience was troubling him.

He had killed John.

Now he feared John had come back.

Guilt was haunting him.

Sin may be hidden from others, but it cannot be hidden from our own conscience.

Cross References

Matthew 14:2

> He said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist. He has risen from the dead. That is why he can do these miracles.”

Luke 9:9

> Herod said, “I cut off John's head. So who is this man I hear such things about?” And he kept trying to see Jesus.

Matthew 14:10

> He had John's head cut off in the prison.

Spiritual Principle

A guilty conscience cannot be silenced by power.

Key Truth

Herod could kill the prophet, but he could not kill his own guilt.

XVII. ON ACCOUNT OF HERODIAS

Mark 6:17 — John Arrested

“For Herod himself had given orders to arrest John and bound him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married.”

Mark now goes back to tell what had happened earlier.

“Herod himself had given orders to arrest John.”

Herod was responsible.

“On account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.”

Herodias had been married to Herod's half-brother.

Herod divorced his own wife and married Herodias.

Herodias was also his niece.

This marriage broke God's law.

Cross References

Matthew 14:3

> Herod had arrested John, tied him up, and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.

Luke 3:19

> John had criticized Herod for marrying Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the other evil things he had done.

Leviticus 18:16

> You must not have sexual relations with your brother's wife. That would dishonor your brother.

Spiritual Principle

Sin often leads to more sin.

Key Truth

One wrong choice led Herod down a road to murder.

XVIII. IT IS NOT LAWFUL

Mark 6:18 — John's Bold Words

“For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.””

“John had been saying to Herod.”

The wording suggests John said it more than once.

He kept warning Herod.

“It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.”

John spoke the truth to a powerful ruler.

He did not soften God's word to protect himself.

He knew it could cost him.

But faithfulness to God mattered more.

Cross References

Matthew 14:4

> John had been telling Herod, “It is against the law for you to have her.”

Leviticus 18:16

> Do not have relations with your brother's wife, because that would shame your brother.

Leviticus 20:21

> If a man marries his brother's wife, it is a disgraceful thing. He has dishonored his brother.

Spiritual Principle

God's truth must be spoken even to the powerful.

Application

Are you willing to speak God's truth when it costs you?

XIX. A GRUDGE

Mark 6:19 — Herodias Wanted Him Dead

“So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him, but she could not,”

“Herodias nursed a grudge against John.”

She held on to her anger.

She fed it.

It grew into hatred.

“And wanted to kill him.”

Unrepented sin led her to want murder.

“But she could not.”

For a time, she was blocked.

God's timing was still in control.

Cross References

Matthew 14:5

> Herod wanted to kill John but was afraid of the people, because they believed John was a prophet.

1 Kings 19:2

> Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “May the gods punish me if by this time tomorrow I do not kill you as you killed those prophets.”

Esther 3:6

> Haman thought it was beneath him to kill only Mordecai. So he looked for a way to destroy all of Mordecai's people.

Spiritual Principle

A grudge that is fed will grow into something deadly.

Spiritual Warning

Do not nurse a grudge; it will poison your heart.

XX. HEROD FEARED JOHN

Mark 6:20 — Puzzled, Yet Listening

“because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard him, he was greatly puzzled, yet he enjoyed listening to him.”

“Herod feared John and protected him.”

Herod respected John.

“Knowing him to be a righteous and holy man.”

He knew John was a man of God.

“When Herod heard him, he was greatly puzzled.”

John's words troubled him.

“Yet he enjoyed listening to him.”

Herod was drawn to the truth.

But he would not obey it.

He wanted to listen without changing.

This is a dangerous place to be.

Cross References

Matthew 14:5

> He was afraid of the people, who thought John was a prophet.

Acts 24:25

> As Paul talked about right living, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became afraid and said, “Go away for now. When I have time, I will call for you.”

Acts 24:26

> At the same time, he hoped Paul would offer him money, so he sent for him often and talked with him.

Spiritual Principle

Enjoying God's word without obeying it leaves the heart unchanged.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to admire the preacher and still reject the message.

XXI. HEROD'S BIRTHDAY

Mark 6:21 — The Opportune Time

“Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday, Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.”

“Finally the opportune time came.”

Herodias had been waiting.

Now her chance came.

“On his birthday, Herod gave a banquet.”

A great feast for the important men of his region.

“For his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.”

Herod wanted to impress them.

Pride and the desire to look good would soon trap him.

Cross References

Matthew 14:6

On Herod's birthday, the daughter of Herodias danced for Herod and his guests.

Esther 1:3

In the third year of his rule, he gave a banquet for all his officials and servants.

Genesis 40:20

Three days later was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials.

Spiritual Principle

Those who wait to do evil will find their opportunity unless they repent.

Key Truth

A party can become a trap when pride is in charge.

XXII. THE DAUGHTER DANCED

Mark 6:22 — Ask Whatever You Want

“The daughter of Herodias came in and danced, pleasing Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you.””

“The daughter of Herodias came in and danced.”

The Jewish historian Josephus names Herodias' daughter as Salome.

She was young, perhaps a teenager.

“Pleasing Herod and his dinner guests.”

The dance delighted the drunken guests.

“Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you.”

Herod made a foolish promise.

He spoke without thinking.

He wanted to look generous before his guests.

Cross References

Matthew 14:6

> The daughter of Herodias danced, and Herod was very pleased.

Esther 5:3

> The king asked her, “What is it, Queen Esther? What do you want? I will give you anything, even half of my kingdom.”

Matthew 14:7

> So he promised with an oath to give her anything she asked.

Spiritual Principle

Careless words spoken in pride can lead to great harm.

Key Truth

Think before you promise.

XXIII. UP TO HALF MY KINGDOM

Mark 6:23 — Herod's Oath

“He swore to her, “Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.””

Herod made his promise even stronger.

He swore an oath.

“Up to half my kingdom.”

This was a way of showing great generosity.

But Herod did not really have a kingdom to give.

He ruled only under Rome.

His words were proud and empty.

Cross References

Matthew 14:7

> He promised to give her whatever she asked for.

Esther 5:3

> The king said, “What is your request? I will give it to you, up to half the kingdom.”

Esther 7:2

> The king asked again, “What do you want, Queen Esther? I will give you anything, up to half of my kingdom.”

Spiritual Principle

Proud promises can trap us.

Key Truth

Big words often lead to big regrets.

XXIV. WHAT SHALL I ASK?

Mark 6:24 — The Head of John the Baptist

“She went out and asked her mother, “What shall I request?” Her mother replied, “The head of John the Baptist.””

“She went out and asked her mother.”

The girl did not know what to ask for.

“What shall I request?”

She could have asked for riches.

“Her mother replied, ‘The head of John the Baptist.’”

Herodias had been waiting for this.

She did not hesitate.

Her grudge had become murderous.

And she used her own daughter to do it.

Cross References

Matthew 14:8

> Her mother told her what to ask for, so she said, “Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a plate.”

Esther 5:6

> While they were drinking wine, the king asked Esther, “What is your request? It will be given to you.”

1 Kings 19:2

> Jezebel sent a message to Elijah threatening to kill him by the next day.

Spiritual Principle

Hatred left unchecked will use anyone to get its way.

Spiritual Warning

Parents shape their children's choices, for good or for evil.

XXV. RIGHT NOW

Mark 6:25 — On a Platter

“At once she hurried to the king with the request: “I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter—right now.””

“At once she hurried to the king.”

She wasted no time.

“I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

A horrible request.

Spoken in the middle of a feast.

“Right now.”

She did not want Herod to have time to change his mind.

Cross References

Matthew 14:8

> She said, “Give me John the Baptist's head on a plate.”

Esther 5:6

> The king asked, “What is your wish? I will give it to you.”

Matthew 14:11

> John's head was brought on a plate and given to the girl, and she took it to her mother.

Spiritual Principle

Evil often hurries before conscience can speak.

Key Truth

Sin rushes; righteousness waits on God.

XXVI. GREATLY DISTRESSED

Mark 6:26 — Because of His Oaths

“The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her.”

“The king was greatly distressed.”

Herod did not want to do this.

“But because of his oaths.”

He felt trapped by his promise.

“And his dinner guests.”

He cared more about his reputation than about doing right.

“He did not want to refuse her.”

Herod could have said no.

Keeping a sinful oath is not faithfulness.

It is sin.

But fear of what others would think won.

Cross References

Matthew 14:9

> The king was very sad, but because of his promise and his guests, he ordered that her request be granted.

Judges 11:35

> When Jephthah saw her, he tore his clothes and said, “My daughter, you have crushed me! I made a promise to the Lord, and I cannot take it back.”

Ecclesiastes 5:5

> You are better off never promising at all than promising and then failing to follow through.

Spiritual Principle

Fear of others' opinions can push us into great sin.

Application

Do you care more about what people think or about what God thinks?

XXVII. JOHN BEHEADED

Mark 6:27 — The Executioner Sent

“So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison,”

Herod gave the order.

The executioner went to the prison.

And John was killed.

The greatest prophet died because of a dance, a foolish oath, and a woman's grudge.

From a human view, it seemed senseless.

But John had finished the work God gave him.

He had prepared the way for Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 14:10

> So he sent orders to have John beheaded in the prison.

Luke 9:9

> Herod said, “I beheaded John.”

Revelation 20:4

> I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because they told the truth about Jesus and God's word.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness to God may cost everything, but it is never wasted.

Key Truth

John lost his head but kept his faithfulness.

XXVIII. ON A PLATTER

Mark 6:28 — Given to Her Mother

“brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl, who gave it to her mother.”

The scene is horrifying.

The head of God's prophet carried in on a dish.

Handed to a girl.

Then to her mother.

Herodias got what she wanted.

But she gained nothing.

Herod's guilt would haunt him.

And history remembers them as the ones who killed a righteous man.

Cross References

Matthew 14:11

> The head was brought on a plate and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.

Esther 5:6

> The king asked, “What do you want? It will be done.”

Proverbs 16:14

> An angry king can bring death, but a wise person will try to calm him.

Spiritual Principle

Evil may win for a moment, but it never truly wins.

Key Truth

The wicked got what they wanted, and lost everything that mattered.

XXIX. LAID IN A TOMB

Mark 6:29 — John's Disciples

“When John's disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.”

John's followers loved him.

They came for his body.

They gave him an honorable burial.

Matthew tells us they then went and told Jesus.

John's death foreshadowed Jesus' death.

Both were faithful messengers.

Both were killed by those in power.

Both were laid in a tomb.

But only one would rise again on the third day.

Cross References

Matthew 14:12

> John's followers came, took his body, and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.

John 19:38

> Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away.

Acts 8:2

> Some godly men buried Stephen and cried loudly for him.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful servants are honored by those who love God.

Key Truth

John's tomb pointed ahead to another tomb that would one day be empty.

XXX. THE APOSTLES RETURN

Mark 6:30 — Reporting to Jesus

“The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him all they had done and taught.”

“The apostles.”

This is the only time Mark uses this word.

It means **sent ones**.

They had been sent, and now they returned.

“Reported to Him all they had done and taught.”

They told Jesus everything.

Ministry should always return to Jesus.

We report to Him.

We give Him the glory.

Cross References

Luke 9:10

> When the apostles came back, they told Jesus everything they had done.

Luke 10:17

> The seventy-two came back full of joy and said, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use Your name!”

Acts 14:27

> When they arrived, they gathered the church together and told everything God had done through them.

Spiritual Principle

All ministry should return to Jesus for His approval and glory.

Application

Do you bring your service back to Jesus in prayer?

XXXI. COME AND REST

Mark 6:31 — A Quiet Place

“Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have time to eat, He said to them, “Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.””

“So many people were coming and going.”

The work was nonstop.

“They did not even have time to eat.”

They were exhausted.

“Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

Jesus cared for His tired disciples.

He knew they needed rest.

Rest is not laziness.

It is part of God's design.

Notice: **“Come with Me.”**

True rest is found with Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 14:13

When Jesus heard about John, He left in a boat and went to a quiet place by Himself.

Luke 9:10

He took them with Him to a town called Bethsaida, where they could be alone.

Psalm 23:2

He gives me a place to lie down in soft grass, and He guides me to quiet streams.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus calls His tired servants to rest with Him.

Application

Are you taking time to rest with Jesus?

XXXII. A SOLITARY PLACE

Mark 6:32 — By Boat

“So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.”

Jesus and the Twelve set out across the lake.

They needed quiet.

They also needed time to grieve John's death.

Jesus Himself had just lost the one who prepared His way.

Cross References

Matthew 14:13

> He went away by boat to a quiet place to be alone.

Luke 9:10

> He took them and went away privately to Bethsaida.

John 6:1

> After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.

Spiritual Principle

Times of quiet are needed after times of sorrow and service.

Key Truth

Even Jesus needed time away.

XXXIII. THEY RAN AHEAD

Mark 6:33 — The Crowd Arrived First

“But many saw them leaving and recognized them, and they ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.”

The quiet getaway did not stay quiet.

People saw the boat leaving.

They ran along the shore.

From all the towns, they came.

And they got there first.

The people were eager for Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 14:13

> When the crowds heard about it, they followed Him on foot from the towns.

John 6:2

> A large crowd followed Him because they saw the miracles He did for the sick.

Luke 9:11

> But the crowds learned where He went and followed Him.

Spiritual Principle

People who are hungry for Jesus will go to great lengths to find Him.

Key Truth

The crowd ran to Jesus faster than the boat could row.

XXXIV. SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD

Mark 6:34 — He Had Compassion

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began teaching them many things.”

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd.”

His rest was interrupted.

“He had compassion on them.”

Not frustration.

Not annoyance.

Compassion.

“Because they were like sheep without a shepherd.”

Sheep without a shepherd are lost, hungry, and in danger.

Israel's leaders had failed them.

Jesus is the true Shepherd.

“So He began teaching them many things.”

Their first need was the truth.

Cross References

Matthew 9:36

> Looking at the crowds, Jesus' heart went out to them. They were worn out and lost, like sheep that have no one to care for them.

Matthew 14:14

> When Jesus came ashore, He saw a large crowd. He felt deep compassion for them and healed their sick.

Numbers 27:17

> Choose someone to lead them, so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is the compassionate Shepherd who meets His people's needs.

Key Truth

Interruptions became opportunities for compassion.

XXXV. IT'S ALREADY VERY LATE

Mark 6:35 — A Remote Place

“By this time it was late in the day, so His disciples came to Him and said, “This is a remote place, and it's already very late.”

The disciples noticed a problem.

It was getting dark.

They were far from town.

Thousands of people had no food.

They saw the problem clearly.

But they did not yet see the solution standing right in front of them.

Cross References

Matthew 14:15

> When evening came, the followers came to Him and said, “This is a lonely place, and it is already late.”

Luke 9:12

> Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to Him and said, “We are in a lonely place here.”

John 6:5

> Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming. He said to Philip, “Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?”

Spiritual Principle

It is easy to see problems and miss the power of Jesus.

Key Truth

The disciples saw the need but forgot who was with them.

XXXVI. SEND THEM AWAY

Mark 6:36 — Let Them Buy Food

“Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.””

The disciples had a practical idea.

Send the people away.

Let them take care of themselves.

It seemed reasonable.

But it was not what Jesus had in mind.

Cross References

Matthew 14:15

> Send the people away so they can go to the villages and buy food.

Luke 9:12

> Send the crowd away so they can go to nearby villages and find food and a place to stay.

John 6:5

> Jesus asked, “Where can we buy bread to feed these people?”

Spiritual Principle

Our first thought may be to send needs away, but Jesus calls us to meet them.

Key Truth

“Send them away” is never Jesus' first answer.

XXXVII. YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT

Mark 6:37 — Two Hundred Denarii

“But Jesus answered, “You give them something to eat.” They said, “Should we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread to give them something to eat?””

“You give them something to eat.”

Jesus put the responsibility on the disciples.

He was testing them.

He was teaching them.

“Two hundred denarii.”

A denarius was a day's pay for a worker.

This was about eight months of wages.

They did not have that kind of money.

And even if they did, it would not be enough.

Jesus wanted them to see that they could not do it on their own.

Cross References

Matthew 14:16

> Jesus said, “They do not need to leave. You give them something to eat.”

Luke 9:13

> He said, “You give them food to eat.” They answered, “We have only five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people.”

John 6:7

> Philip answered, “Even eight months' pay would not buy enough bread for each of them to have a bite.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus calls us to do what we cannot do without Him.

Key Truth

Jesus gives tasks that are too big for us so we will depend on Him.

XXXVIII. HOW MANY LOAVES?

Mark 6:38 — Five and Two Fish

““How many loaves do you have?” He asked. “Go and see.” When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.””

“How many loaves do you have?”

Jesus started with what they had.

“Go and see.”

They had to look.

“Five—and two fish.”

John tells us these came from a boy's lunch.

Small barley loaves and small dried fish.

It was not much.

But it was what they had.

Jesus does not ask for what we do not have.

He asks for what we do have.

Cross References

Matthew 14:17

> They said, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish.”

Luke 9:13

> They said, “We have only five loaves and two fish.”

John 6:9

> Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus starts with what we have, however small.

Application

What do you have that you can give to Jesus?

XXXIX. ON THE GREEN GRASS

Mark 6:39 — Sitting Down in Groups

“Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.”

“Have all the people sit down in groups.”

Jesus brought order.

He organized the crowd.

“On the green grass.”

Only Mark mentions the green grass.

It was springtime.

It recalls Psalm 23.

“He makes me lie down in green pastures.”

The Good Shepherd was caring for His sheep.

Cross References

Matthew 14:19

He told the people to sit down on the grass.

Luke 9:14

He said to His followers, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty.”

John 6:10

Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass there.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus provides for His people with care and order.

Key Truth

The Good Shepherd makes His sheep lie down in green pastures.

XL. HUNDREDS AND FIFTIES

Mark 6:40 — In Orderly Groups

“So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.”

The word Mark uses pictures garden beds.

The groups may have looked like rows of flowers on the green hillside.

This orderly arrangement also recalls how Moses organized Israel in the wilderness.

Jesus was gathering God's people and feeding them as God fed Israel with manna.

Cross References

Luke 9:14

> There were about five thousand men there. Jesus said, “Have them sit in groups of about fifty.”

Exodus 18:21

> Choose capable men who fear God, who can be trusted, and who hate bribes. Put them over the people as leaders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.

John 6:10

> The men sat down, about five thousand of them.

Spiritual Principle

God is a God of order who cares for His people.

Key Truth

Jesus did for the crowd what God did for Israel in the wilderness.

XLI. HE GAVE THANKS AND BROKE THE LOAVES

Mark 6:41 — Distributed by the Disciples

“Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to His disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.”

“Taking the five loaves and the two fish.”

Jesus took the small offering.

“Looking up to heaven.”

He looked to the Father.

“He gave thanks.”

He thanked God for what seemed too little.

“And broke the loaves.”

As He broke them, they multiplied.

“Then He gave them to His disciples to distribute.”

Jesus provided.

The disciples delivered.

Notice the actions: took, gave thanks, broke, gave.

These same actions appear at the Last Supper.

Cross References

Matthew 14:19

> He took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, and thanked God. He broke the bread and gave it to His followers, and they gave it to the people.

Luke 9:16

> Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, and blessed them. Then He broke them and gave them to His followers to hand out.

John 6:11

> Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and passed them out to the people. He did the same with the fish, giving as much as they wanted.

Spiritual Principle

When we give thanks for little, God can make it much.

Key Truth

Jesus provides; His disciples distribute.

XLII. THEY ALL ATE

Mark 6:42 — Satisfied

“They all ate and were satisfied,”

“They all ate.”

Not some.

All.

“And were satisfied.”

Not just a small taste.

They ate until they were full.

Jesus does not give barely enough.

He satisfies completely.

Cross References

Matthew 14:20

> They all ate as much as they wanted.

Luke 9:17

> Everyone ate and was full.

John 6:12

> When they had all had enough, He told His followers, “Gather the leftover pieces so nothing is wasted.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus fully satisfies those who come to Him.

Key Truth

With Jesus, there is always enough.

XLIII. TWELVE BASKETS

Mark 6:43 — Leftovers

“and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.”

After everyone ate, there were leftovers.

Twelve baskets full.

One for each disciple.

Perhaps a reminder that Jesus had provided for them too.

The twelve baskets may also picture the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus provides more than enough.

Cross References

Matthew 14:20

> The followers gathered twelve baskets full of leftover pieces.

Luke 9:17

> They picked up twelve baskets of leftover pieces.

John 6:13

> So they gathered the leftovers and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves.

Spiritual Principle

God's provision overflows beyond our need.

Key Truth

Jesus started with five loaves and ended with twelve baskets.

XLIV. FIVE THOUSAND MEN

Mark 6:44 — The Number

“The number of the men who had eaten was about five thousand.”

Five thousand men.

Matthew adds that women and children were also there.

The total may have been far more.

This is the only miracle besides the resurrection recorded in all four Gospels.

It shows how important it was to the early church.

Cross References

Matthew 14:21

> About five thousand men ate, not counting women and children.

Luke 9:14

> There were about five thousand men.

John 6:10

> About five thousand men sat down.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is able to provide for any number of people.

Key Truth

No crowd is too large for Jesus to feed.

XLV. HE MADE THEM GET INTO THE BOAT

Mark 6:45 — Sent Ahead

“Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to Bethsaida, while He dismissed the crowd.”

“Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat.”

Jesus urged them strongly.

John tells us the crowd wanted to make Jesus king by force.

Jesus did not want His disciples caught up in that excitement.

“And go ahead of Him to Bethsaida.”

He sent them across the lake.

“While He dismissed the crowd.”

He sent the people home.

Cross References

Matthew 14:22

> Right away Jesus made His followers get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side while He sent the people home.

John 6:17

> They got into a boat and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

John 1:44

> Philip was from Bethsaida, the same town as Andrew and Peter.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus protects His followers from the wrong kind of excitement.

Key Truth

Jesus would not accept a crown without a cross.

XLVI. TO PRAY

Mark 6:46 — On the Mountainside

“After leaving them, He went up on a mountainside to pray.”

After a huge miracle, Jesus went to pray.

In Mark, Jesus prays at three key moments.

- After a busy day in Capernaum.
- After feeding the five thousand.
- In Gethsemane before the cross.

Each time, He faced the temptation to take an easier path.

And each time, He went to the Father.

Cross References

Matthew 14:23

> After sending the crowds away, He went up on a mountain by Himself to pray.

Luke 6:12

> Jesus went out to a mountain to pray, and He spent the night praying to God.

John 6:15

> Jesus knew they planned to make Him king by force, so He went off to the mountain by Himself.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer keeps us on God's path after success as well as after trouble.

Application

Do you pray after victories as well as in trials?

XLVII. ALONE ON LAND

Mark 6:47 — In the Middle of the Lake

“Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and He was alone on land.”

The disciples were out on the water.

Jesus was on the shore.

They were separated.

It may have felt like Jesus was far away.

But He was not unaware.

Cross References

Matthew 14:23

> When evening came, He was there alone.

Matthew 14:24

> By this time the boat was far from land, being battered by the waves because the wind was against it.

John 6:16

> When evening came, His followers went down to the lake.

Spiritual Principle

Even when Jesus seems far away, He knows where we are.

Key Truth

Distance from Jesus is never distance from His sight.

XLVIII. STRAINING AT THE OARS

Mark 6:48 — Walking on the Lake

“He saw the disciples straining at the oars because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night, He went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them,”

“He saw the disciples straining at the oars.”

From the mountain, Jesus saw them.

He saw their struggle.

“Because the wind was against them.”

They were rowing hard but getting nowhere.

“About the fourth watch of the night.”

Between three and six in the morning.

They had been rowing for hours.

“He went out to them, walking on the lake.”

Jesus walked on the water.

In the Old Testament, only God walks on the waves of the sea.

“He was about to pass by them.”

This recalls when God “passed by” Moses and Elijah to show His glory.

Jesus was revealing who He is.

Cross References

Matthew 14:25

> Between three and six in the morning, Jesus came to them, walking on the water.

John 6:19

> After rowing three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the water and coming near the boat. They were afraid.

Job 9:8

> God alone spreads out the skies and walks on the waves of the sea.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus sees our struggles and comes to us in them.

Key Truth

Jesus walks on the very waves that are against us.

XLIX. A GHOST!

Mark 6:49 — They Cried Out

“but when they saw Him walking on the lake, they thought He was a ghost. They cried out,”

In the dark, the disciples saw a figure on the water.

They did not recognize Jesus.

They thought it was a ghost.

Fear can keep us from recognizing Jesus when He comes to help.

Cross References

Matthew 14:26

> When the followers saw Him walking on the water, they were terrified. “It's a ghost!” they said, and they screamed in fear.

John 6:19

> They saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat, and they were frightened.

Luke 24:37

> They were startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost.

Spiritual Principle

Fear can blind us to the presence of Jesus.

Key Truth

Sometimes the One we fear is the One coming to save us.

L. IT IS I

Mark 6:50 — Take Courage

“for they all saw Him and were terrified. Immediately He spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.””

“Immediately He spoke to them.”

Jesus did not leave them in fear.

“Take courage!”

Be brave.

“It is I.”

In the language Mark uses, this can be read as **“I AM.”**

This is the name God used for Himself when He spoke to Moses.

Jesus was saying more than “It's me.”

He was revealing that He is God.

“Don't be afraid.”

His presence is the answer to fear.

Cross References

Matthew 14:27

> But Jesus spoke to them right away: “Be brave! It is I. Do not be afraid.”

John 6:20

> But He said to them, “It is I. Do not be afraid.”

Isaiah 41:10

> Do not be frightened, for I am with you. Do not be troubled, for I am your God.

Spiritual Principle

The presence of Jesus is the answer to our fear.

Key Truth

When Jesus says “It is I,” fear has to go.

LI. THE WIND DIED DOWN

Mark 6:51 — Utterly Amazed

“Then He climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were utterly amazed,”

“Then He climbed into the boat with them.”

Jesus joined them in their struggle.

“And the wind died down.”

Again, creation obeyed Him.

“They were utterly amazed.”

They were overwhelmed.

This was the second time they had seen Jesus calm the wind.

Yet they were still amazed.

Cross References

Matthew 14:32

> When they climbed into the boat, the wind stopped.

John 6:21

> They gladly took Him into the boat, and right away the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

Psalm 107:29

> He turned the storm into a calm, and the waves became quiet.

Spiritual Principle

When Jesus enters our boat, the storm must obey Him.

Key Truth

Peace comes when Jesus climbs in.

LII. THEIR HEARTS WERE HARDENED

Mark 6:52 — They Had Not Understood About the Loaves

“for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.”

Mark gives a surprising explanation.

“They had not understood about the loaves.”

They had just seen Jesus feed thousands.

If they had understood who He was, they would not have been so shocked.

“Their hearts were hardened.”

This is strong language.

The same words used for Jesus' enemies.

The disciples were not enemies.

But they were slow to understand.

Even followers of Jesus can have dull hearts.

Cross References

Matthew 14:33

> Then those in the boat worshiped Him and said, “You really are the Son of God!”

Mark 8:17

> Jesus knew what they were talking about and asked, “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hard?”

John 12:40

> He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts.

Spiritual Principle

Even followers of Jesus can be slow to understand what He has shown them.

Spiritual Warning

Seeing miracles does not guarantee understanding; hearts must be open.

LIII. LANDING AT GENNESARET

Mark 6:53 — Anchored There

“When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there.”

The boat landed at Gennesaret.

This was a fertile plain on the northwest shore of the lake.

The wind had pushed them off course from Bethsaida.

But Jesus had work for them here.

Cross References

Matthew 14:34

> When they had crossed the lake, they came to land at Gennesaret.

John 6:24

> When the crowd saw that Jesus and His followers were not there, they got into boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

John 6:25

> When they found Him on the other side of the lake, they asked, “Teacher, when did You get here?”

Spiritual Principle

God can use even a change of plans for His purposes.

Key Truth

Where the wind takes us, Jesus has work for us.

LIV. THEY RECOGNIZED HIM

Mark 6:54 — As Soon As They Got Out

“As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus.”

Jesus was now famous everywhere.

People knew Him immediately.

His reputation had spread throughout the region.

Cross References

Matthew 14:35

> When the people there recognized Jesus, they sent word through the whole area.

Mark 1:37

> When they found Him, they said, “Everyone is looking for You!”

Luke 4:42

> The people looked for Him, and when they found Him, they tried to keep Him from leaving.

Spiritual Principle

Where Jesus has worked, people will recognize Him.

Key Truth

Jesus' fame went ahead of Him.

LV. CARRYING THE SICK

Mark 6:55 — Running Through the Region

“They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard He was.”

People ran everywhere.

They brought their sick friends and family.

They carried them on mats.

Wherever they heard Jesus was, they brought them.

Like the four friends in Chapter 2, they carried people to Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 14:35

> They brought all their sick people to Him.

Mark 2:3

> Four men came, carrying a paralyzed man.

Acts 5:15

> People even carried the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats, hoping Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.

Spiritual Principle

Love carries the hurting to Jesus.

Application

Who can you help bring to Jesus?

LVI. ALL WHO TOUCHED HIM WERE HEALED

Mark 6:56 — Even the Edge of His Cloak

“And wherever He went—into villages, towns, or the countryside—they laid the sick in the marketplaces. They begged Him to let them touch even the edge of His cloak, and all who touched Him were healed.”

“Wherever He went.”

Villages.

Towns.

The countryside.

“They laid the sick in the marketplaces.”

The places of business became places of healing.

“They begged Him to let them touch even the edge of His cloak.”

Like the woman in Chapter 5, they reached out in faith.

“And all who touched Him were healed.”

Not some.

All.

What a contrast to Nazareth.

There, unbelief limited the miracles.

Here, faith brought healing to all.

Cross References

Matthew 14:36

> They begged Him to let the sick just touch the edge of His coat, and everyone who touched it was healed.

Mark 5:28

> She thought, “If I can just touch His clothes, I will be healed.”

Acts 19:12

> Handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched Paul were taken to the sick, and they were healed.

Spiritual Principle

Faith that reaches out to Jesus finds His power to heal.

Key Truth

The chapter began with unbelief that shut Jesus out and ended with faith that reached out to Him.

LVII. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM MARK 6

1. Unbelief Blocks Blessings

“He could do no great miracle there.”

Principle:

Jesus could do little in His hometown because of their unbelief.

2. Disciples Are Sent with Faith, Not Resources

“Take nothing for the journey except a staff.”

Principle:

Dependence on God's power matters more than human preparation.

3. John's Death Foreshadows Christ's Sacrifice

“John, whom I beheaded.”

Principle:

Standing for truth can cost your life.

4. Jesus Feeds the Hungry

“They all ate and were satisfied.”

Principle:

He is the true Shepherd who provides for His people.

5. Jesus Walks on Water

“Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.”

Principle:

His authority over nature reveals His divine power.

6. Faith Activates Healing

“All who touched Him were healed.”

Principle:

All who reached out to Him in Gennesaret were made whole.

LVIII. TWO KINGS, TWO BANQUETS

Mark places two meals side by side.

Herod's Banquet

- Held in a palace.
- For the rich and powerful.
- Full of pride, drinking, and foolish oaths.
- Ended in death.

Jesus' Banquet

- Held on a green hillside.
- For ordinary, hungry people.
- Full of compassion, order, and thanksgiving.
- Ended in life and plenty.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The kingdoms of this world end in death, but the kingdom of Jesus brings life and abundance.

LIX. WHAT JOHN THE BAPTIST TEACHES US

John's death shows the cost of faithfulness.

He Spoke the Truth

“It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.”

He Spoke to the Powerful

He did not soften God's word for a king.

He Paid the Price

He was imprisoned and killed.

He Finished His Work

He had prepared the way for Jesus.

He Pointed to Jesus Even in Death

His death foreshadowed the death of the One he served.

Key Truth

Faithfulness to God may cost us everything, but it gains what cannot be lost.

LX. FROM LITTLE TO MUCH

The feeding of the five thousand teaches how Jesus works.

1. Jesus Sees the Need

“He had compassion on them.”

2. Jesus Gives the Task

“You give them something to eat.”

3. Jesus Asks What We Have

“How many loaves do you have?”

4. Jesus Gives Thanks

“He gave thanks.”

5. Jesus Multiplies

“He broke the loaves.”

6. The Disciples Distribute

“He gave them to His disciples to distribute.”

7. Everyone Is Satisfied

“They all ate and were satisfied.”

8. There Is More Than Enough

“Twelve basketfuls.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Give Jesus what you have, and He will make it more than enough.

LXI. WHAT MARK 6 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Was a Humble Carpenter

“Is this not the carpenter?”

He Sends His Servants with Authority

“He gave them authority over unclean spirits.”

He Is the Compassionate Shepherd

“They were like sheep without a shepherd.”

He Provides Abundantly

“They all ate and were satisfied.”

He Prays to the Father

“He went up on a mountainside to pray.”

He Walks on the Sea

“Walking on the lake.”

He Is the Great “I AM”

“Take courage! It is I.”

He Heals All Who Come

“All who touched Him were healed.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The carpenter from Nazareth is the Shepherd of Israel, the Lord of the sea, and the great I AM.

LXII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why did the people of Nazareth reject Jesus?

They knew Him as an ordinary carpenter and could not accept that He was more.

Question 2

Why could Jesus do no great miracle in Nazareth?

Not because His power was limited, but because their unbelief shut out His works.

Question 3

Why did Jesus send the Twelve out with so little?

To teach them to depend completely on God.

Question 4

What did shaking the dust off their feet mean?

It was a solemn warning to those who rejected God's message.

Question 5

Why did Herod think Jesus was John raised from the dead?

His guilty conscience was troubling him after he killed John.

Question 6

Why was John arrested?

For telling Herod it was wrong to marry his brother's wife.

Question 7

Why did Herod go ahead with John's execution?

Because of his foolish oath and his fear of what his guests would think.

Question 8

Why did Jesus have compassion on the crowd?

They were like sheep without a shepherd.

Question 9

What did Jesus do with the five loaves and two fish?

He gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to His disciples to distribute, and everyone was fed.

Question 10

Why did Jesus walk on the water?

To come to His struggling disciples and to reveal that He is Lord over creation.

Question 11

Why were the disciples so amazed?

They had not understood the meaning of the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

Question 12

What should Mark 6 change about the way Christians live today?

Mark 6 should cause believers to live:

- Refusing to let familiarity breed unbelief.
- Depending on God more than on resources.
- Speaking God's truth with courage.
- Keeping promises wisely and refusing sinful ones.
- Resting with Jesus after hard work.
- Showing compassion when interrupted.
- Giving Jesus what they have, however small.
- Trusting Jesus in the storms of life.

LXIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Mark 6 asks several important questions.

Has Familiarity Dulled My Faith?

Do I take Jesus for granted?

Am I Depending on God or My Resources?

What would I do if I had nothing but Jesus?

Am I Willing to Speak the Truth?

Even when it is costly?

Am I Listening Without Obeying?

Like Herod, do I enjoy God's word but refuse to change?

Do I Rest with Jesus?

When did I last come away with Him?

How Do I Respond to Interruptions?

With annoyance or compassion?

What Do I Have to Give Jesus?

What are my five loaves and two fish?

Do I Recognize Jesus in My Storms?

Or does fear blind me to His presence?

LXIV. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Five Loaves in His Hands”

Five small loaves.

Two little fish.

A boy's lunch.

The disciples looked at it and said, “What is this among so many?”

It was not enough.

It was not even close.

But they gave it to Jesus.

Jesus took it.

He looked up to heaven.

He gave thanks.

He broke it.

And thousands were fed.

This creates a powerful principle.

What we have is never enough in our hands.

But it is always enough in His.

The question is not how much we have.

The question is whether we will give it to Jesus.

Principle:

Little in our hands becomes much in the hands of Jesus.

LXV. FINAL APPLICATION

Mark Chapter 6 shows both rejection and provision.

Jesus was rejected by His hometown.

The Twelve were sent out with nothing but His power.

John the Baptist paid for faithfulness with his life.

Jesus fed thousands with a boy's lunch.

He walked on the water to His frightened disciples.

And all who reached out to Him were healed.

Mark 6 therefore reminds us:

Never let familiarity turn into unbelief.

Never trust resources more than God.

Never be afraid to speak the truth.

Never think your little is too small for Jesus.

Never forget that Jesus sees you straining at the oars.

The church does not need people who only admire Jesus.

It needs:

Messengers who go in His power.

Servants who speak the truth.

Givers who offer what they have.

And disciples who trust Him in the storm.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Tell people that Jesus provides more than enough.

Tell people that Jesus comes to us in our storms.

Tell people that all who reach out to Him in faith can find healing and hope.

And as you live:

Believe.

Give what you have.

Take courage.

Reach out to Jesus.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Jesus, the carpenter who is also the Lord of all.

Thank You that He sends His servants out with His power.

Thank You for faithful witnesses like John the Baptist who spoke the truth at great cost.

Thank You that Jesus is the compassionate Shepherd who feeds His sheep.

Thank You that He takes our little and makes it more than enough.

Thank You that He sees us straining at the oars and comes to us.

Thank You that He says, “Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.”

Forgive us when familiarity has dulled our faith.

Forgive us when we have trusted our resources more than You.

Forgive us when we have been afraid to speak the truth.

Forgive us when we have listened to Your word without obeying it.

Forgive us when fear has kept us from seeing Jesus.

Give us faith that reaches out to Him.

Help us give Him whatever we have.

Teach us to rest with Him.

Fill us with His compassion for the crowds.

And in every storm, help us hear His voice.

“Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began teaching them many things.” — Mark 6:34

Central Truth

Jesus is the compassionate Shepherd and Lord over creation who provides for His people and sends them out in His power, and while unbelief shuts Him out and faithfulness may cost everything, those who come to Him in faith find Him more than enough.

Mark 6 in One Sentence

Jesus is rejected in Nazareth, sends out the Twelve with His authority, and, after John the Baptist is beheaded by Herod, has compassion on the crowds and feeds five thousand with five loaves and two fish, then walks on the lake to His struggling disciples and heals all who touch Him in Gennesaret.