

Lesson 14- Mark 6

In our last lesson we read about three healing miracles. These miracles revealed Jesus' power over demons, His power over illness and his power over death. This lesson begins with Jesus returning to Nazareth.

1. Read Mark 6:1-6 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

- a. Imagine someone you knew as a child, the boy in your classroom who ate paste and made trouble in the classroom perhaps. If that is your memory of him, would you have trouble accepting him as a reliable teacher of theology or as an expert in another field like physics or economics?
- b. What part of Jesus' background, creates an obstacle for faith in Jesus, among the people of Nazareth? See also Mark 3:20-21 below.

Mark 3:20-21 Again [the] crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. ²¹When his relatives heard of this, they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

- c. Looking back on the miraculous healings by Jesus in Mark's Gospel, how important is faith in these healings?

2. Read Mark 6:7-13 and footnotes.

- a. What are the benefits of sending the apostles out in pairs?
- b. What is the purpose of the instructions in verses 8 and 9?
- c. Why do you suppose Jesus included verse 10 in his instructions?
- d. Why might the apostles be tempted to move from house to house within a village?

3. Read Mark 6:14-16.

- a. Who do the people believe Jesus is? There were a few theories.
- b. What does King Herod believe?

4. Read Mark 6:17-29 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

- a. Why did Herodias hate John the Baptist?
- b. What did Herod really think of John the Baptist? Cite verses.
- c. Why did Herod offer to give Herodias' daughter whatever she wished?
- d. What was Herod's reaction to her request?
- e. What prevented Herod from denying her request?
- f. Is there a lesson here for us?

5. Read Mark 6:30-33 and footnotes.

- a. What is the price of fame for Jesus and the apostles?**
- b. How does Jesus reveal his genuine concern for the apostles?**

6. Read Mark 6:34-44 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

- a. In verse 34, for whom did Jesus have pity?**
- b. What do you think Jesus is trying to teach the apostles in 6:36-37?**
- c. How was this crowd organized for the meal?**
- d. Read again 6:41. What in this verse sounds like the Eucharist?**
- c. With 5000 men mentioned in 6:44, is it likely that there were also women and children in the crowd?**

7. Read Mark 6:45-52 and footnotes. (4th watch is 3AM to 6AM)

- a. What did Jesus do after the crowds were dismissed?**
- b. What kind of miracle is this? Over *what* does Jesus have power here?**
- c. Compare Mark 6:51-52 to Matthew 14:32-33 below. How is the reaction of the apostles different in these stories?**

Matthew 14:32-33. ³² After they got into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ [Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

- d. Why did the apostles not yet understand in Mark's Gospel?**

8. Read 6:53-56. Imagine what it would look like to enter the marketplace and to see mats and stretchers of the sick waiting for Jesus to pass by.

- a. What is Jesus saying to us in today's age about his willingness to heal so many?**

9. What example does Jesus set for us in this chapter when it comes to compassion?

- a. What example does He set for us when it comes to prayer?**