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Mark 6

Jesus' Fame Spreads

Jesus' disciples have learned from listening to him and from watching him transform impossible situations. Now Jesus gives them a taste of the privileges, the responsibilities, and the difficulties of being his disciples. As you see Jesus in very different situations in this chapter, what do you learn about his power and his compassion toward those in spiritual and physical need?

Read Mark 6:1-6

1. Describe this incident, noting the:
 - location

 - people present

 - reactions to Jesus

2. What is at the root of the townspeople's attitude?

How does their unbelief affect Jesus' ministry in their town?

Read Mark 6:7-13

3. What authority and what special orders does Jesus give the twelve?

What reasons could there be to travel light, to stay in only one home in a village, to leave a place that rejects their message?

4. What is the common theme in the disciples' message, John's message (1:4), and Jesus' message (1:15)?

How will their ministry help to spread Jesus' message?

Read Mark 6:14-29

5. What do King Herod and others say about Jesus' identity?

6. How did Herod feel toward John the Baptist?

Why did Herod fail to accept John's message?

7. Why did Herod put John to death?

What things today keep people from doing what they know pleases God?

Read Mark 6:30-44

8. How do you think the disciples felt when they returned from their trips?

Why does Jesus suggest a day off?

9. What ruins their plans for a restful, quiet day?

How does Jesus react to this interruption in plans? Why?

10. When and why do the disciples want Jesus to get rid of the crowd?

How do they react to Jesus' challenge to them?

11. What indicates that the disciples have not considered their resources?

How does Jesus use what they have?

How do the disciples' jobs differ from what they originally had in mind for the day?

Read Mark 6:45-52

12. John 6:15 reveals the crowd's reaction to this miracle:

Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

Why would Jesus not want his disciples to stay where the people intended this?

13. Why may Jesus need to pray at this time?

14. How is the disciples' day of frustration progressing by the fourth watch (3 A.M.)?

15. How does Jesus meet the needs of his weary, frightened disciples?

How would the events of this day help explain the hardness of their hearts?

16. We tend to think that if trouble comes to us it must mean we are not doing God's will. How does the disciples' distressing situation on the sea prove this idea incorrect?

Read Mark 6:53-56

17. How has the experience of the woman with the flow of blood affected Jesus' ministry?

Why does Jesus continue to be so popular with the crowds?

SUMMARY

1. What demands are made upon Jesus' disciples in this chapter?
2. What indicates that Jesus does not expect that his followers will always receive a welcome and a hearing?
3. Jesus has compassion for the crowds, which his disciples apparently do not share. How can you learn to have Jesus' compassion for people?

CONCLUSION

This chapter gives three examples of people who fail to receive spiritual truth. The *people in his home town*, influenced by a surface familiarity with Jesus which leads to unbelief, do not see him do any miracle. *Herod* misunderstands who Jesus is because he failed to act on John the Baptist's message. Jesus' *disciples*, though they experience his power in their own ministry, do not grasp the meaning of his power revealed in the feeding of the 5,000. They are completely astounded when Jesus comes walking to them on the water.