

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK**

**LESSON 6**

**BELIEF AND UNBELIEF 5:1-8:30**

Unbelief around Nazareth 6:1-6

Greater ministry with the Twelve 6:7-56

Praise God for your desire to study the Bible. We welcome you to join our Thursday Night Bible Study sessions at FAME, 7:30 – 9:00 PM.

*Directions: Please read and study the scripture lesson and any other scripture references, the Illumination section, and the Observation section, than answer the questions in the Exploration section. When you submit your answers on the answer sheet a Bible study teacher will review your answers and provide comments within 2 weeks of submission. These comments will enrich your Bible study experience and is not intended to grade or judge your knowledge or understanding.*

<b>Mark 6:1 - 56 NIV</b>	<b>Illumination</b>
<p><sup>1</sup>Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup>When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him that he even does miracles! <sup>3</sup>Isn't this the carpenter? Aren't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." <sup>5</sup>He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their lack of faith.</p> <p><b><i>Jesus Sends Out the Twelve</i></b></p> <p>Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. <sup>7</sup>Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. <sup>8</sup>These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. <sup>9</sup>Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. <sup>10</sup>Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup>And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup>They went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup>They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.</p> <p><b><i>John the Baptist Beheaded</i></b></p> <p><sup>14</sup>King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup>Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." <sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!" <sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. <sup>18</sup>For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup>So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, <sup>20</sup>because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled<sup>[d]</sup>; yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." <sup>23</sup>And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom." <sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered. <sup>25</sup>At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup>The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup>and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Amazed</b> – the Greek word, “ekplesso” means to strike out of one’s senses”.</li> <li>❖ <b>King Herod</b> – ruled over the territories of Galilee and Perea. He is also known as Herod Antipas who heard Jesus case before His crucifixion (Luke 23:6-12). He was not a king but a ruler. He was the son of Herod the Great who had ordered the killing of babies in Bethlehem when Jesus was a baby.</li> <li>❖ <b>Denari</b> – refers to Roman currency. Normally a man was paid 1 denarius for a day’s work.</li> <li>❖ <b>Fourth Watch of the Night</b> – refers to 3 AM to 6 AM</li> </ul>

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**Mark 6:1 - 56 NIV**

**Illumination**

***Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand***

<sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." <sup>32</sup>So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup>But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. <sup>36</sup>Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." <sup>37</sup>But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages!<sup>[E]</sup> Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?" <sup>38</sup>"How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish." <sup>39</sup>Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. <sup>41</sup>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 set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>They all ate and were satisfied, <sup>43</sup>and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. <sup>44</sup>The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

***Jesus Walks on the Water***

<sup>45</sup>Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup>After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. <sup>47</sup>When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. <sup>48</sup>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, <sup>49</sup>but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, <sup>50</sup>because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." <sup>51</sup>Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, <sup>52</sup>for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. <sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup>As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. <sup>55</sup>They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup>And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed 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.

**Observations**

- ❖ In verses 6:1-6 Jesus and His disciples traveled to the hometown of Jesus, Nazareth.
  - It is believed by many scholars that this is Jesus second visit to His hometown. Luke 4: 14-30 records a visit to Nazareth that is believed to have happened after He began His ministry, Matthew 4:12-17, Mark 1:14-15. However some say the visit in Luke 4 was this first visit.
    - Jesus is rejected and thrown out of the city in Luke 4.
  - For this visit Jesus waited until the Sabbath and taught in the synagogue.
  - The people were always amazed when they heard Jesus teaching. 1:22; 7:37; 10:26; 11:18
  - Jesus teaching was effective and filled with wisdom. However, they could not reconcile His teaching with having seen him growing up and his background.
    - They saw Him as carpenter. Prior to beginning His ministry at 30 years old Jesus had been learning and working in the trade of Joseph – a carpenter.

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**Observations, continued**

- They saw Him as the son of Mary. There is no mention of Joseph. It is believed that Joseph had died. Mentioning that He was Mary's son maybe reference to Jesus being conceived outside of the marriage of Joseph and Mary. Mary and Jesus continued to bare this stigma.
- They mentioned His brothers and sister indicating that He was part of a normal family. There was nothing special about Him or his family except the shame of His birth.
- The people took offense at the teaching of Jesus because they considered Him ordinary and maybe less than honorable.
- Jesus acknowledged that He was a prophet and acknowledged the peoples rejection.
- As a result of the people's attitude Jesus could not do any miracles. However there were a few people that were open to be healed by Jesus.
- Jesus was amazed/flabbergasted by His family, homeboys and towns people unbelief as they were amazed/flabbergasted by His teaching and miracles. He had been rejected by them twice.
- Jesus left Nazareth and went to the towns around his home town teaching.
- ❖ You learn best by doing. In verses 7-13 Jesus sent His disciples into the community to do ministry. In verses 30-32 the disciples told Jesus all things that had happened.
  - Jesus sent them out in pairs. Judaism demanded that there always be a witness.
  - Mark records that Jesus gave them power over the evil/unclean spirits. Matthew 10:1 also records that He gave them power to heal all kinds of sickness and diseases. (Each Gospel does not record everything.) Jesus had to give them power for ministry because they did not have it.
  - Jesus gives them explicit instructions as they go forth.
    - Jesus told them to take only a staff and wear a pair of sandals.
    - They were not to take a bag, food and money.
    - When they enter a town they were to stay in the home of a worthy person (Mat. 10:11) which implies a Believer. They were not to change homes when asked to stay in a more comfortable home.
    - When the people did not welcome them as in being hospitable and refused to listen to their preaching they were to leave the town. As they left the town they were to shake off the dust of their feet as a sign of their displeasure with the people and their determination not to have further involvement with them. The shaking off of the dust was a testimony that the disciples had tried to minister to the people.
  - Normally when you travel you take a bag with a change of clothing, food and money. But Jesus did not want them to take the time to gather all these items. In addition, He wanted them totally depend on the Lord for all their needs and not worrying about it.
  - The disciples were obedient. They preached, healed the sick and caste out demons. Mark is the only Gospel that mentions the anointing of oil in the healing.
- ❖ Mark interrupts the account of the disciples' first ministry mission to inform us of the death of John the Baptist since it had been mentioned in 1:14 that he had been arrested. People including King Herod were trying to understanding who Jesus. They were saying that He was a risen prophet - John the Baptist, Elijah, or another.
- ❖ The disciples going out in pairs allowed the gospel message to be preached in more towns. Therefore Jesus became even better known, even to the Roman government, King Herod. The success of the disciples and the death of John the Baptist allow readers to understand that ministry is not always going to be successful by human's standards. Sometimes it will lead to persecution and even death.
- ❖ John the Baptist death is recorded as a flashback.
  - Herod had arrested John the Baptist because he had spoken against his marriage to Herodias. John had said it was not lawful for Herod to marry his brother's wife.

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**Observations, continued**

- Herodias held a grudge against John the Baptist and was use to getting her way. She could not have him killed because Herod protected him. Herod knew that John was not a man that you killed for a grudge.
- Herodias used her teenage daughter, Salome to obtain the way to have John the Baptist killed. She encouraged her daughter to dance at Herod's birthday party in such a way as to please him knowing that Herod would offer her a prize.
- Even though Herod did not want to kill John the Baptist, He had to keep his word told in public since he told Salome he would give her whatever she asked. As per Herodias she wanted John the Baptist's head on a platter.
- ❖ In verses 30-33 the apostles/disciples returned from their first mission and reported to Jesus what happened. Jesus recognized that they needed to rest. But in Capernaum with all the people there was no rest or even time to eat. Therefore Jesus decided that they should go to a deserted place, Bethsaida (Luke 9:10).
- ❖ The feeding of the 5,000 in verses 34-44 is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. In this miracle Jesus provided for the needs of the 5,000 plus people with the little that they had.
  - As Jesus and His disciples traveled by boat to a deserted place for rest the people traveled by foot. Either the people could see the boat from the shore or they knew from the direction of the boat where they were headed, or they knew the place to where Jesus was going.
  - When Jesus landed and saw the people He was filled with compassion. He saw their desire to hear from Him. They needed direction and to be cared for as sheep do. Yes the need of his disciple for rest was great, but so was the need of the people.
  - The people had followed Jesus to this deserted place with out bring food. Therefore at the end of the day when Jesus had finished teaching the people were far from home with out food.
  - The disciples saw the need and wanted Jesus to send them away before dark so that they could go to the surrounding villages and buy themselves something to eat and find lodging.
  - However Jesus told the disciples to feed the people. The disciples reminded Jesus that they did not have the food to feed the people, or the money to go and buy the food.
  - Jesus wanted to know what the people had since the disciples did not bother to find our and assumed that nothing could be done to feed the people. The disciples learned that a lad (John 6:9) had five barley loaves and two small fish.
  - Jesus directed the disciples to have the people sit in groups of 100 and 50 for ease of distribution of food. The men were probably separated from the women and children as was the custom for public eating.
  - As Jesus broke the bread and fish for distribution the miracle happened. The disciples were the servers.
  - All ate and was filled. There were twelve baskets of left-overs.
- ❖ As a result of this miracle we learn in John 6:15 that the people were going to make Jesus king by force if necessary. Jesus could not allow this therefore they had to leave quickly. The disciples left in the boat to go a village with the same name Bethsaida which was located near Capernaum and Jesus went into the mountain to pray. He sent the people away.
- ❖ Once again in verses 45-52 the disciples are tired and find themselves in a boat in a storm (Matthew 6:24; John 6:18). However this time Jesus is not in the boat with them, but was watching from a distance.
  - The disciples are not scared that they will die. But the winds are blowing them off course and against their rowing. It was taking longer to row to their destination than normal.
  - Jesus went to the disciples walking on the wind blown water. It probably appeared to the disciples that Jesus was going to pass them by as He walked on the water. But Jesus would never pass by his disciples who He was mentoring. All they had to do was call out to Him once they knew it was Him.
    - At first the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost and were afraid. They did not recognize Jesus until He spoke to them comforting words.
    - In Matthew 14:22-33 we learn that Peter asked to walk on the water and was able to do so as long as he kept his eyes/focus on Jesus.

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**Observations, continued**

- When Jesus got into the boat the winds stopped.
  - Once again the disciples were amazed by a miracle performed by Jesus.
  - Mark records that the disciples did not understand the miracle of the feeding of the 5000 because their hearts had been hardened. It seems that now they understood as a result of this miracle. The disciples were having problems understanding and believing that Jesus was both human and divine with all power.
- ❖ In verses 53-56 Jesus and the disciples arrived at Gennesaret because they had been blown off course. The people came wherever Jesus went for healing.

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Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Exploration**

Consider the Introduction to the Gospel According to Mark and the Illumination section and Observation section for your answers.

1. What do you think would happen if Jesus had told the people in His hometown that He was the Messiah?
2. Why was Jesus not able to do mighty works in His hometown of Nazareth?
3. Why did Jesus send the disciples in pairs other than to have a witness?
4. Where do we get our power for ministry today?
5. What did the disciples learn from their first ministry mission?
6. Why were the people and Herod trying to figure out who Jesus was?
7. What can you learn when you compare the first time mission of the disciples to the mission of John the Baptist and his death?
8. What can be done when you need rest, but there is no time for rest because of the needs of the people?
9. What does the miracle of the feeding of the 5000 teach you about Jesus, you and providing for the needs of people?
10. Compare the storm in verses 45-52 with the storm in verses 4:35-41. What are the differences, and similarities? What can we learn about ourselves and Jesus?

**Thought For The Week:** Jesus has all power.

