

Mark 6:31-56

I. Review:

- 1) The whole birthday celebration for Herod was couched in sin; the dancing of a young unmarried woman gives us insight into the priorities of the occasion. The situation when from bad to worse when Herod made an "oath" which he felt bound to honor "to save face" for himself.
 - 2) Good lessons from what led to John the Baptist's death: Sin is the key issue that leads to the brokenness of lives, the world, and ultimately leads to death. Being a follower of Christ and being faithful to the gospel can still be very dangerous and can lead to difficult circumstances and even death.
 - 3) In Jesus taking the disciples "Away by themselves" after they returned from their mission, we see a familiar pattern of work and restoration.
 - 4) "In this instance" Jesus knows their needs (being like sheep without a shepherd) are the priority, so moved with "compassion" He interrupts the time of retreat to care for the people.
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- I. Vs 31-35 The disciples (not having yet been restored) were feeling the burden of so many people being tired and needing to eat. (I am guessing they just wanted to get on with the vacation)
 - A. What do you see the purpose being in Jesus saying, "you give them something to eat"?
 - 1) Is He still teaching?
 - 2) Why do you think the disciples bring up the huge cost and undertaking it would be to feed them?
 - B. Why does Jesus have them assess the resources they have available?
 - 1) Is there any significance in having them sit in "groupings"?
- II. Vs 41 Jesus is always teaching, what is He teaching as he prepares to serve the meal?
 - A. Do the twelve baskets of left-overs make a statement to the disciples?
 - B. Is there an important principle in this for us today also? (Mt. 6:33, Jn. 10:10)
- III. Vs. 44 In letting us know there were 5,000 men served, Mark also lets us know there were probably a lot more people there.
 - A. The principle this helps us get, is the Lord's incredible power and desire to do "immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20)
 - 1) What makes this hard to remember and trust?
 - 2) Patch Adams "Four, Four, Four" – "you have to look past the problem"
- IV. Vs. 45 Jesus sending His disciples on ahead of Him in the boat to Bethsaida (Northern tip of Sea of Galilee)
 - A. Why send the disciples on ahead and dismiss the crowds Himself?
 - B. Key may be in vs 46 – "He went up on the mountain to pray" (Here again the pattern of serving/restoring).
 - 1) How is it that staying up all night restores Jesus? How is He being restored?
 - 2) How does this connect with Is. 40:31? (Waiting upon the Lord)
 - 3) Is there any wisdom of Him "going to a particular place to pray"?
- V. Vs 48 The disciples find themselves in a battle on the sea.
 - A. 4th watch of the night, Peterson says about 4 AM, between 3 and 6 AM
 - 1) Wind is against them and they are struggling, "painfully"
 - B. Mark says "Jesus comes walking to them on the sea" / Modern commentators go crazy (sandbars, vision, etc.), They think there has to be some "natural explanation"
 - 1) There is, He is Co-Creator (Col. 1:15-20)
 - 2) Meant to just walk by them to their destination (Is this a stay in Jerusalem 3 days situation like the death of Lazarus?)
- VI. Vs 49-50a Disciples reaction to Jesus:
 - A. "They thought it was a ghost" (This gives us some indication of a belief in such things)

- B. "They cried out" (remember these are grown men and fisherman) (so much for sandbars)
 - 1) Even told why they cried out, "they saw Him & were terrified"
 - 2) Most things "beyond" our own understanding and control tend to frighten us

VII. Vs 50b Jesus calms them and then the storm:

- A. He speaks to them, (we will see this same effect on Mary M. At the resurrection.
 - 1) "Take heart it is I. Do not be afraid. (Should it have been enough for Him to say "it is I"?)
 - a) Is that enough for us?
 - 2) Would it be a great comfort to know it was your friend "walking on water"
 - a. Even here what is He trying to teach and reinforce?
 - b. How do you not "be afraid" in this situation?
 - c. Is that helpful in the situations of fear we face?

VIII. Vs 51 Jesus isn't done teaching:

- A. He gets into the boat with them (empathy vs sympathy)
 - 1) Why do you think He waits to get in the boat with them, before He has the wind cease?
 - 2) Much like Job, they needed the "who" not the "what" of changed circumstances.
- B. What role if any do you think the "wind ceasing" plays in what the Lord is teaching?

IX. Vs 51b The day was a lot for the disciples to take in:

- A. They were "utterly astounded" (walking on water, calming the wind, His calm) take your pick!
- B. Vs 52 This day was a lot to wrap their heads around:
 - 1) Loaves and fishes, leftovers, and a stroll on the sea
- C. Last word, "but their hearts were hardened"
 - 1) God's timing
 - 2) They are following, but not always grasping, sound familiar?
 - 3) Does this mean they weren't responsible? (This is often the question as it relates to God's sovereignty and our responsibility).
 - A) Remember Pharaoh and Is. 6:9,10

X. Vs 53 – 56 Arriving at Gennesaret (near Bethsaida on the north tip of Galilee)

- A. By now Jesus is not able to do much "incognito".
 - 1) They run about the whole region bringing sick people on their beds to Him
 - 2) What are their motives at this point? Are they believers or just in need?
 - 3) "They implore Him" to do what? Must be some fabric He is wearing?
 - a. If these people don't yet get who He is, why does He heal them?
 - b. And not just some, "as many as touched the fringe of His garment"