

Mark Chapter 6

V: 1 He went from thence – **Capernaum** to His own country – **Nazareth**.

- Map Valley of the doves / Har Arbel / Arbel cliffs – doves roost in caves not in trees.
- His disciples aren't limited to just the 12 Apostles, there was probably a multitude of disciples, men and women following Jesus.

V: 2 Tradition, travelling Rabbi's allowed / asked to teach.

- They were astonished at his teaching, his wisdom, and the mighty works wrought by His hands.
- Previously He was "just the carpenter" – Jesus didn't begin His public ministry until after His baptism and temptation in the wilderness.
- This visit to the synagogue in Nazareth was different than the previous time just after His baptism when He read from Isaiah 53 and they tried to throw Him off the cliff afterwards. Actually at this point He is fulfilling the prophecies listed in Isaiah.
- This time Jesus comes to town with a reputation, He's been doing many great miracles and has quite a following – but they don't seem to consider this info.
- Apocryphal / erroneous accounts of Jesus miracle ministry as a child – refuted, otherwise they wouldn't have been surprised or "astonished" – it would have been something like "oh, that's just Jesus doing miracles again."

V: 3 They are moving full circle – this is just the "carpenter" – pay no attention...

- "The son of Mary" as opposed to being the "son of Joseph" which would be normal; perhaps Joseph had died and at that time.
- This was a kind of cultural slap down; men were always identified as the son of their father, even after their father's death. Only when there was uncertainty as to who the man's father actually was, then they were referred to as the son of their mother because that was a certainty.
- Essentially they were accusing Jesus of being illegitimate, a bastard; and rejecting the claim of the virgin birth prophesied in **Isaiah 7:14**.
- This passage refutes Catholic doctrine of the perpetual virginity of Mary the mother of Jesus.

(Co-mediatrix, sinless birth and life, assumption. Church of the tomb of Mary?)

Key point: they were offended, stumbled – refusing to believe.

- *“There are none so blind as those who refuse to see.”*

V: 4 Jesus call's it – a prophet has no respect in his hometown, or in his own family.

- Interesting that He mentions His family – who eventually believe and become leaders in the church writing James & Jude – but they didn't believe until after His resurrection.

John 7:2-5 *“²Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. ³His brethren therefore said unto Him, depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. ⁴For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. ⁵For neither did His brethren believe in Him.”*

- The Nazarene's were not generally well regarded, they were looked down upon as outcasts.

John 2:46 *“And Nathanael said unto him, can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, come and see.”*

- Yet these social outcasts looked down upon Jesus – the One who would save them if they were willing.

V: 5-6 Jesus was limited by the lack of faith:

An often repeated phrase:

Mark 5:34 *“... thy faith hath made thee whole, go in peace...”*

- Jesus couldn't say that in Nazareth...

Matthew 7:6 *“Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”*

“And He went round about the villages, teaching.”

- Not teaching, preaching, and healing – just teaching.

V: 7 Jesus commissions His disciples; He empowers them, and sends them out in two's.

Matthew 10:5-14 Additional elements are recorded.

1. Go to the Jews only, not the Gentiles or Samaritans.
2. As you go preach saying the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.
3. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers.
4. Raise the dead, cast out demons.

- Going out in two seems very practical, having both support, accountability, safety, and a witness.

Deuteronomy 19:15 “... at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

- Jesus sent them to the lost sheep of Israel, not to the Gentiles etc.

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

V: 8-9 Take no worldly provision; use no worldly means to accomplish this spiritual mission:

Zechariah 4:6 “Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, this is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.”

Jesus would later say:

Matthew 16:18 “... I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- They were pointedly put in a place of dependency, having to trust the Lord:
- No money meant no food unless someone was charitable / loving. No extra coat meant that you were not prepared to sleep outside, depending on someone taking you in.
 - **All part of a faith walk with Jesus.**

Proverbs 3:5-6 “⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, ⁶in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

V: 10-13 Bless those that receive you, shake off the dust of those that don't.

- Jewish tradition of shaking off the Gentile dust at the border.

V: 11b “... in the day of judgment...” that means there will be a day of judgment.

- They went out in obedience preaching the gospel of repentance.

- They cast out many demons; [they anointed many with oil](#) and healed them.
- Shepherds would do the same with sheep that were injured.

James 5:14 “Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:”

V: 14-29 Related sub-story: Jesus’ ministry is now expanding in an exponential manner, 12 men going out doing what He is doing.

- Who’s name was spread abroad? The name of Jesus!

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

- People are taking note, exciting things are happening – among those observing, king Herod, or Herod Agrippa the Tetrarch of Galilee who had John the Baptist imprisoned, and beheaded for the sake of his illicit relationship with Herodias; his brother’s wife.

Background as recorded by Josephus:

- Herod Agrippa, also known as Phillip, was brother to Antipas. Agrippa had been a poor and weak ruler of his inheritance, his “fourth part”, he and his wife Herodias lived on the charity of Antipas.
- Herod Agrippa / Phillip and Herodias later lived in Rome and were subsequently imprisoned by Caesar Tiberius. Some time later he was released and restored by Caesar Caius with much honor and wealth.
- Prior to Phillips restoration, Antipas went to Rome and subsequently returned with Herodias. Herodias was an ambitious woman who wanted very much to be a queen.
- This is where we find them in this story.
- Later Phillip / Agrippa is restored by Caesar Caius and returns to Israel.
- Herodias became jealous of his wealth, honors, and specifically his title “king”. She pushes Antipas to go to Rome and seek the same honors for himself, and for her. When they arrive in Rome, so does a message from Agrippa / Phillip accusing Antipas of planning a revolt. The proof offered is 70,000 sets of armor gathered and set aside, which Antipas admits to.
- Antipas ends up banished to Gaul; Herodias voluntarily goes with him. All their combined wealth is then given to Agrippa, including their territory.

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- Herod’s birthday party, he made a rash promise to his step daughter who danced for him.

- People don’t like being confronted about their sin.

Ephesians 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

V: 30-33 The apostles return and give testimony, giving glory to God for the great things that He had done through them.

- Jesus tells them to “come away” – they had been so busy in ministry they barely had time to eat.
- The people recognized Jesus and knew where He was headed.
- People could see where He was headed, from Capernaum to Bethsaida.

Luke 9:10 “And the apostles, when they were returned, told Him all that they had done. And He took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.”

- **Map** – Capernaum to Bethsaida / Bethsaida Julius.

V: 34 Jesus saw the people’s need, sheep without a shepherd. So He began to do the work of a shepherd – He fed them.

Matthew 4:4 “Man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.”

Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.”

John 21:15 “So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? He saith unto Him, yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, feed My lambs.”

V: 35-44 The feeding of the 5,000 (Jews).

V: 35-36 It’s late in the day, they’re out in the boonies – we need to send them away so they can get food.

Matthew 11:28 “Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I shall give you rest.”

Revelation 22:17 “And the spirit and the bride say come. And let him that heareth say come. And whosoever will let him take the water of life freely.”

- Desert place vs: wilderness.

V: 37 Testing them.

John 6:6 “And this He said to prove him: for He Himself knew what He would do.”

- A test of the ECS: Emergency Christian System.
- “You give them something to eat.” Jesus had empowered them to heal the sick, drive out demons, and raise the dead...
- They trusted Jesus daily for their food, who provided that?
- Their first thoughts were to purchase food – as opposed to asking Jesus to multiply what they had, or rain manna down from heaven, or to have in some miraculous way met their need.

John 14:12 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father.”

- Jesus says “you give them something to eat.” He wouldn’t have said that unless it was possible – an issue of faith?
- **Feeding of the 5,000 is recorded in all 4 Gospels.** Matthew 14 - Luke 9 - John 6.

V: 38 What do you have? Self examination, what can you do? Showing the contrast; what God can do.

John 15:5 “... apart from Me, you can do nothing.”

John 6:9 “There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what is that among so many?”

Matthew 19:26 “But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

V: 39-40 Ours is the God of order.

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40 “³³For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” – “⁴⁰Let all things be done decently and in order.”

- He had them all sit down in the green grass... because He’s the good shepherd.

Psalms 23:1-6 “¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of

righteousness for His name's sake. ⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

V: 41-45 Jesus looked to the Father and gave thanks; then He broke the bread / fish and gave to the disciples who in turn gave to the people.

- In between blessing & giving is *breaking*.

Matthew 26:26 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said take, eat; this is My body."

- Jesus gave to His disciples; they gave to the people.

1 Corinthians 11:23 "What I have received, I have given to you."

- Can't give what you don't have.

Isaiah 40:11 "He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young."

- 5,000 men – but when you add in wives & children it could easily, conservatively have been 20,000.
- They all ate and were filled (glutted). 12 baskets of left-over's.

Ephesians 3:20 "Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"

V: 45 Straightway / immediately He directed His disciples into a boat and away from the crowd. Again, the composite picture from the other Gospels helps us to understand why.

John 6:15 "When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take Him by force, to make Him a king, He departed again into a mountain Himself alone."

- Disciples may have been caught up on in the euphoria to make Jesus king by force.

V: 46-47 After sending them away, Jesus also departs to a secluded place to pray, spending time with the Father, up on a mountain.

V: 48 Jesus, alone with the Father in prayer. Jesus could see the disciples below Him struggling across the lake.

- Seeing them struggling, He went to them.

Psalm 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”

- 4th watch = 3:00 – 6:00 AM / dawn.
- Jesus knew He was sending the disciples into a storm, in fact this is the 2nd time He’s done so.
- Storms appear in our lives for two reasons.
 1. Correction – as with Jonah.
 2. Perfection – development.

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

James 1:2-4 “²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations; ³knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

V: 49-50 They were all afraid – not recognizing Jesus. They weren’t looking for Him.

Titus 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our savior Jesus Christ.”

- Jesus immediately seeks to comfort / calm them.
- This portion of scripture is also notable for what it lacks, that is Peter getting out of the boat and walking on water with Jesus! (**Matthew 14:28-31**)
- He may have viewed it as a failure and omitted it from this account, or on the other hand he didn’t want to brag or detract.

V: 51 As Jesus enters into the situation the storm is quieted, there is peace.

1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

V: 52 This trial in the storm had gotten them distracted, Peter wasn't the only one that took his eyes off of Jesus – because of that lack of focus they weren't connecting the dots.

- Seeing Jesus do all these things, including the latest of feeding 20,000 people miraculously; demonstrating His power over the elements, it shouldn't have surprised them to see Jesus walking on water – but it did.

V: 53-56 A warm reception – the former demoniac had done his job!

Matthew 14:34-36 ³⁴“And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret. ³⁵And when the men of that place had knowledge of Him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto Him all that were diseased; ³⁶And besought Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.”

- Quite the opposite of how He was received the last time, basically asking Him to leave.
- Now they crowd around just to touch the hem of His garment, looking for healing.
- Villages, cities, or in the country – he pretty well covered the bases.

Tremendous contrast:

1. Nazareth, Jesus couldn't do much – no faith, not much healing.
2. Gadara, multitudes healed

1 John 5:4 “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”