

Mark 6

Mark 6.1-6

V1 – Notice how fast-moving things are: there is no "buffer" statement between the healing of Jairus' daughter and the next event

-**Where did Jesus next take his apostles?** Back to his home town (Nazareth)

V2 – Please notice that we see Jesus again on the Sabbath

-**What is he doing?** Worshipping at the synagogue

-**What does this tell us about his attitude toward faithful attendance?** He believed in faithful attendance

-This writer remembers a member of our congregation who told me several years ago that her resolution for the New Year was to be present every Sunday that year, but by the fourth Sunday, she was already missing services

-**What did Jesus begin to do at the synagogue at Nazareth?** Teach the people

-**What was the reaction of the people to his teaching?** Astonishment

-This is our same reaction today when we read the New Testament – Jesus must have been the Christ - there is no other explanation for his life than that - **Read John 7.46**

V3 – **But in spite of the evidence, what was the reaction of these people?** "We know his relatives - this just could not be the Messiah" – **Read John 1.11**

-Notice that Joseph is not listed here – it is believed that he was probably dead by this time

-**Did Jesus have any brothers or sisters?** Yes

-Consider the implications to the Catholic doctrine of the perpetual virginity of Mary

-This is an excellent verse to underline in talking to our Catholic friends

-Obviously, Mary had children by Joseph the natural way

V4 – **What comment did Jesus make at this point?** A person does not have honor among his own people

-True today: a famous person is not all that great when you are around him a lot

-Remember when Naaman the Syrian came to see Elisha to be healed, but no-one in Israel had gone to Elisha to be healed

-Look at the way the people treated Moses, even though he was one of the greatest figures in the Old Testament

V5 – **Why could he not do a miracle there?** Some of his miracles were based on the faith of the person involved

-Also, with their lack of faith, it would not have done any good anyway

V6 – **What was his reaction to their unbelief?** Marveled, wondered at it

-So he left that area and took his twelve apostles to other towns

Mark 6.7-13

V7 – **What did Jesus next do with the twelve apostles?** Sent them out in pairs

-**Why in pairs?** Evangelistic work is much more effective that way (to share the work, to

encourage each other, for safety)

-What kind of power did he give them? Power over unclean spirits

V 8 – **What were they supposed to take with them?** Nothing, except a staff

-Why no bread or money? The people they preached to were supposed to support them

-Why were they supposed to take a staff? Possibly to keep away dogs, animals, etc.

-Anyone who has been on a church campaign knows the danger from dogs

V 9 – **What were they to have in the way of shoes?** Sandals

-What about coats? Just one

-They were not to live extravagant lifestyles; others were supposed to practice hospitality toward them

V 10 – **What special instruction did he give them?** Just stay at one house in each town

V 11 – **What were they to do if no-one took them in?** Shake the dust off of their clothes and shoes
(a testimony to the inhospitality of that town)

V 12 – **What did the 12 apostles begin preaching?** Repentance

V 13 – **What else were they doing?** Casting out demons, healing the sick

Mark 6.14-20

V 14 – King Herod ruled in Galilee 4BC-39AD

-What were the people saying about Jesus? He was John the Baptist raised from the dead

V 15 – **What were some other theories about the identity of Christ?** Elijah, the prophet from the Old Testament

-Why would people think that Jesus might be Elijah? Read Malachi 4.5-6

V 16 – Herod seems to be tormented by the memory of what he did to John the Baptist

-He was tormented by a guilty conscience

-He took responsibility for the death of John the Baptist himself

-People are frequently haunted by mistakes of their past (see Edgar Allen Poe's short story, "Tell-tale Heart")

V 17 – Mark gives background leading up to the death of John the Baptist

-What had happened to John the Baptist? He had been arrested and put in prison

-Who was Herodias? The wife of Herod's brother (also the niece of Herod himself)

-Please notice that v 17 says that they were married

-They were not married in the eyes of God, but were married in the eyes of the state

-Some today say that when two people are married with the approval of the government, God recognizes that marriage, but that is not true!

-And here is the verse that proves it

V 18 – **What had John the Baptist been preaching?** That it was not lawful for Herod to have his brother's wife

- If they were married, then why was it not lawful? Not lawful by God's laws
- Something can be lawful according to the laws of the land, but not lawful according to the laws of God (abortion, gambling, homosexuality, marriage-divorce)

V 19 – What was the attitude of Herodias toward John the Baptist? Wanted to kill him (some people do not take criticism lightly and do not like to be shown their sins)
 -"Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned"

V 20 – What was the attitude of Herod toward John the Baptist? Confused, but liked to hear him preach, and still kept him in prison
 -There are probably people today who like to hear a certain preacher, but they still do not obey the gospel

Mark 6.21-29

V 21 – Notice: *"strategic day"*

- Meaning?** Well-planned by Herodias
- What day was it?** Herod's birthday
- Who was present?** The lords, military commanders, leading people of the area

V 22 – What did the daughter of Herodias do? Came in and began to dance very seductively
 -**What was the reaction of the dinner guests?** Liked what they saw
 -**What offer did Herod make to her?** Anything she wanted (he was quite seduced by her)
 -Remember Woody Allen, who fell in love with the adopted daughter of his live-in lover (Mia Farrow) – he "married" this adopted daughter, with no feelings of shame

V 23 – What was the full offer? Anything up to half of his kingdom
 -Notice that he swore to her his offer

V 24 – What did she do? Asked her mother what she should ask for
 -**What did Herodias say to ask for?** The head of John the Baptist on a platter

V 25 – The daughter therefore asked for the head of John the Baptist

V 26 – What was the reaction of Herod? Very sorry
 -Interesting: sorry, but not sorry enough to do something about it
 -Today, many people are sorry that they are living in sin, but not sorry enough to do anything about it
 -Notice also: Herod did not want to go back on his word in front of his dinner guests
 -There is a great lesson here: Do not accept a dare, and don't brag in front of other people
 -It is much harder to get out of something when we are in front of other people

V 27 – What did Herod do? Sent word for John the Baptist to be beheaded

V 28 – The head was brought in on a platter and given to the daughter, then to her mother

V 29 – What did the disciples of John do? Took the body away for burial
 -*Matthew 14.12* says that the disciples told Jesus about the death of John

The marriage-divorce-remarriage issue is very powerful

-People can get very upset when they are told that their marriage is not Scriptural (this writer was screamed at several years ago by a lady who had to be told that)

This is the most explosive issue that elders face, and there are elderships that just don't want to deal with it and therefore ignore it – how sad!

-There are many preachers who just never preach on the subject of marriage-divorce-remarriage

Mark 6.30-32

V 30 – What did the apostles do? Went to be with Jesus

V 31 – What did Jesus do? Took them away to a lonely place

-Why? So that they could recover from the death of John (and also because of the many crowds)

V 32 – They left in a boat to be alone

Mark 6.33-44

V 33 – What did the crowds do when Jesus and the apostles left in the boat? Ran ahead of them and beat them to the next destination

V 34 – Why did Jesus feel sorry for the crowds? Like sheep without a shepherd

-In other words, no leader, no spiritual guidance in life

V 35 – Night was coming on

-What problem did they face? No food

V 36 – They could have bought food at nearby towns, but it was late and they were hungry

V 37 – What did Jesus tell his apostles to do? Give the people something to eat

-How much money did the apostles have? 200 denarii (about \$30-\$40)

-It was impossible to feed that many people with just that amount of money

V 38 – What question did Jesus ask the Apostles? How many loaves to you have?

-Answer? 5 loaves and two fish

V 39 – Very interesting: the "green" grass – a peculiarity of Mark and his writing

-Mark loved nature and animals (he is the only one who mentions the color of the grass)

V 40 – How were the people arranged? In groups of 100s and 50s

-Why? Jesus liked order, and also it was easier to count the people, for purposes of the miracle

V 41 – What did Jesus do? Took the food and offered thanks

-We should give thanks before eating (possibly except in public, not to be showy as the Pharisees were)

V 42 – Was there enough food? Yes

V 43 – How much food was picked up? Twelve baskets, plus fish
-**Lesson?** "Waste not, want not" – Christians are not to be wasteful people
-The apostles gathered up the leftover food
-Also, God can do a lot with just a little

V 44 – At least 5000 men ate that day (plus women and children)

Mark 6.45-52

V 45 – Notice: "*And immediately....*" (Characteristic of Mark)
-**What did Jesus persuade his apostles to do?** Sail to the other side of the lake
-They began to row toward Bethsaida

V 46 – Notice that Jesus had to pray
-**Where did he go to pray?** To a mountain

V 47 – So the boat was on the lake, and Jesus was alone on the mountain

V 48 – What did he see taking place? A storm, and they were straining at the oars
-**What did Jesus begin to do?** Began walking on the water (about the fourth watch of the night)
-Thought question: **Why did Jesus intend to pass them by?** Maybe not to scare them

V 49 – When the Apostles saw Jesus, what did they think? A ghost
-People were superstitious in the First Century, just as they are today

V 50 – What did Jesus say to them? Do not be afraid

V 51 – What did Jesus do next? Got into the boat with them
-The wind stopped, and they were amazed

V 52 – Why were they amazed? They had not learned much from the feeding of the 5000

Mark 6.53-56

V 53 – They went to the region of Gennesaret

V 54-55 – What was the reaction of the people? Came running from everywhere to see Jesus

V 55 – Whom did they bring to see Jesus? The sick

V 56 – Many just wanted to touch the fringe of his robe, so that they could be healed

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