

Mark 6:30-56

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.³¹ And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.³² And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late.³⁶ Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ³⁷ But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸ And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ And

those who ate the loaves were five thousand men. ⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." ⁵¹ And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened. ⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. ⁵⁴ And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him ⁵⁵ and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

Astounded Is Not Always Good

Mark 6:30-56

Todd Chapman- February 10, 2019

Mark wants us to see, though Jesus continues to reveal who He is, the disciples, those with the best view, are slow to recognize who He is.

Feeding of the 5,000.

Jesus continues to reveal who He is.

Jesus walks on water.

Jesus continues to reveal who He is.

Jesus heals many.

Jesus continues to reveal who He is.

Pre-Life Group Study Questions:

Mark 6:30-56

What does it mean?

1. How would you summarize Mark 6:1-29?
2. What is it the disciples are telling Jesus in v. 30?
3. In v. 31, why does Jesus ask the disciples to come away? Who are the "many"?
4. In v. 34, why does Jesus have compassion on the crowds? What does it mean to be a "sheep without a shepherd"? What role is Jesus assuming in this interaction?
5. How does Jesus respond to the disciples in v. 37? What is he telling them to do?
6. Do the disciples demonstrate faith in Christ and knowledge of who he is in their dialogue with him about feeding the crowds? Explain.
7. Why does Mark include the details he does in vv. 39-40?
8. Is there any indication in this passage that the disciples and those fed by Jesus have an understanding of who he is?
9. Immediately after feeding five thousand, Jesus performs another miraculous feat by walking on the water. Why were the disciples afraid again after seeing Jesus displaying what he can do? What does that say about them that their first assumption is that Jesus is a ghost?
10. Jesus calms the wind and the disciples are "astounded". Explain what their amazement is rooted in? What clues does Mark give us concerning if this is good or bad?
11. What change are we seeing so far through Mark (as we end Chapter 6) of the perception of who Jesus is from the crowds? From the disciples?

How does it apply?

1. Are you encouraged or discouraged by how slow the disciples are to respond with faith?
2. Most Christians would say "Jesus can do anything." But practically, do we live with the expectation that Jesus could do something amazing at any moment? Would we be astounded if he chose to do something amazing in our lives?
3. How do we typically respond to the new and potentially overwhelming situations in our lives? How might we respond with greater faith? How do we get there?
4. How can we support each other when our responses are not as faith-filled as we would like? How can we encourage each other toward those faithful responses?