

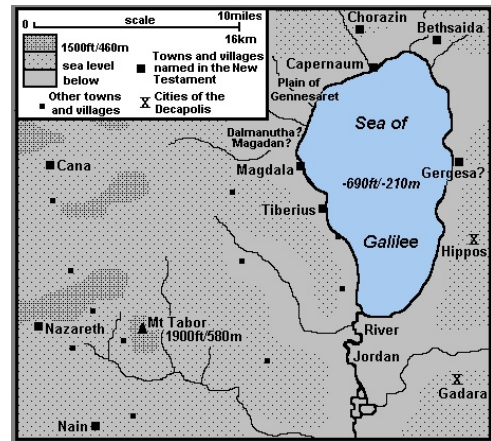
Study of the Gospel of Mark

Chapter 6 (Part 2)

The second half of this chapter recounts two miracles from Jesus' ministry which are very familiar to many people. The miracles of the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus walking on the water are common in Sunday School lessons and children's Bible story books. Accounts like these can often lose their importance and significance because they are so familiar. Lord willing, our review of these events will open our eyes to a new and deeper understanding of Jesus and His work as our Savior!

In the previous section we heard Jesus commission His disciples to a preaching tour of their own (Mark 6:7-13).

Here in Mark 6:30 we pick up with the return of the disciples from this trip as they tell Jesus about their successes and rejections.



1. Notice what Jesus says to His disciples in Mark 6:31. What can we learn from these words of Jesus in this verse? How does this apply to our lives?

2. Although Jesus wanted to get some "downtime" with His disciples, we see that the people continued to persist following Jesus. What does Mark tell us about Jesus' feeling about this disturbance? What is Jesus' reaction? (v.34)

3. Notice once again that Mark tells us that Jesus began to "teach" the multitudes. His concern and compassion was shown to be for their souls first and foremost (later his concern for their physical needs would also be demonstrated). What can we learn from this in an age of "social gospel"?

4. Remember that Jesus' disciples had just returned from a preaching tour where they had been given the ability to cast our demons and heal the sick, just as Jesus did. When Jesus responded to their request to send the multitude away but saying, "You feed them," what do was Jesus trying to teach them? (Compare John 6:1-14)

5. Do the math. Mark tells us that 5,000 men were fed on this day. The disciples said that it would cost 200 denarii to feed that large of a crowd. A denarius was equivalent to a days wage, so the cost would have been more than the average workers wages for half a year! How much would it cost to feed 5,000 people today?

6. Verses 42-44 offer some insightful information about this miracle. What do we learn about this miracle from these verses? How might this information be valuable for those who would like to reduce this miracle to just "making ends meet"?

7. John also records this miracle, but include additional details about the aftermath of this miracle. Read John chapter 6 to see more in-depth how the people responded to Jesus' miracle. This is a longer chapter including many of Jesus' words to them about their incorrect perception about the Messiah.

8. Jesus is not yet done teaching His disciples about His ability to provide for us and protect us. After the busy day Jesus sends His disciples away by boat while He takes time for prayer. In verses 47 and 48 we are told that Jesus is on the land, and boat is out in the lake. It is the fourth watch of the night (4-6am) and they are in a severe storm, yet Jesus "sees" them straining at the oars. What does this reveal about Jesus?

9. What distinct miracles did Jesus perform in this one account?

A. _____

B. _____

C. (See John 6: 21) _____

10. In verse 52 Mark tells us that the disciple's hearts were hardened. The actions and the sayings of Jesus were stumbling points for many people, even His own disciples. The disciples spoke of Jesus' words as "Hard Sayings" (John 6:60). Many of the accounts we read in the Bible are difficult to accept and comprehend (for example: the miracles of Jesus and others, the resurrection, the virgin birth, Jesus as True God and True Man, etc.). Many people do reject these accounts recorded in Scripture, and sometimes we struggle to believe certain parts of God's Word ourselves. What can we learn about ourselves from this statement?
