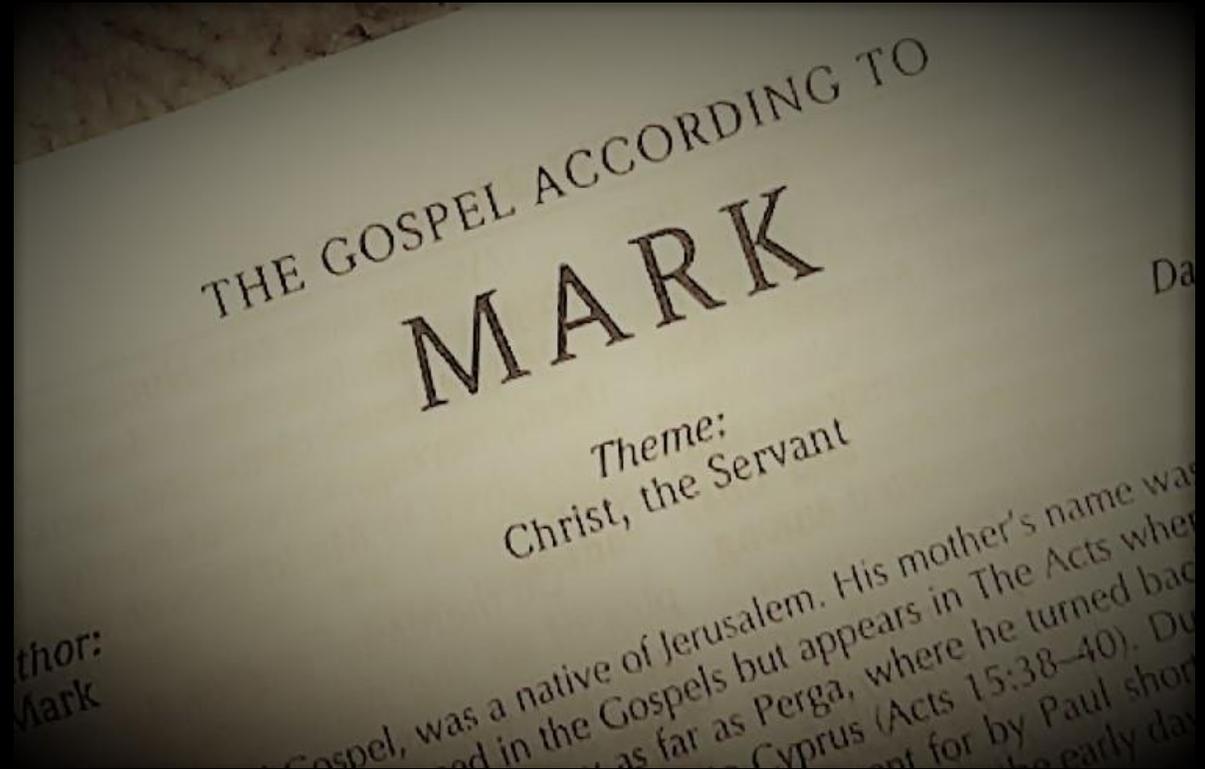


# Verse by Verse

## Mark 6



# Mark 6 Introduction

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- Last week we saw Jesus do a number of mighty works or miracles that gave evidence of his divinity.
- This week we will see two parallel themes:
  1. Rejection – of both Christ and of John the Baptist
  2. Expansion – of Christ's ministry by delegating his authority to his disciples.

# Mark 6 Key Verse

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- Mark 6:34 (ESV)

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.

# Mark 6 Outline

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1. Rejection at Nazareth 6:1-6
2. Sending the Twelve 6:7-13
3. John's Head and Herod 6:14-29
4. The Twelve Return 6:30-32
5. Feeding the 5000 6:33-44
6. Walking on Water 6:45-52
7. Healing the Sick 6:53-56

# 1. Rejection at Nazareth 6:1-6

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- This is the synagogue Jesus attended with his family when he was growing up.
- He visited here more than once during his public ministry, but it never went well.
- In the situation described in **Luke 4**, they tried to throw him off a cliff on the outskirts of town.
- \* I am scheduled to share a brief message in Nazareth on Monday October 28. I hope to get a better response.

# 1. Rejection at Nazareth 6:1-6

- 6:5 And he could do no mighty work there, except ...
- Strictly speaking, Jesus's power is not limited by our faith or the lack of it. He is God.
- Yet we find that God will often work in response to our faith.
- In Nazareth they let their familiarity with Jesus limit what they were willing to believe about him.

# 1. Rejection at Nazareth 6:1-6

*All life's coins are two sided. The better informed carry greater responsibility to make a proper response, but they also have more detail with which to manufacture their resistance.*

– Donald English (1930 – 1998),  
evangelical Methodist minister



# 1. Rejection at Nazareth 6:1-6

- God doesn't do things to impress or awe us like a performer on a stage or a celebrity trying to gain fans.
- He deals with us far more personally.
- He responds to our needs, the depth of our trust and our desire to know him.

## 2. Sending the Twelve 6:7-13

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- Jesus is sending the disciples out on a short missions trip.
- He doesn't want them to be overly focused on their needs.
- **5:12-13** Their activity is described much like the work that Jesus did in his own ministry.

<sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

## 2. Sending the Twelve 6:7-13

- The best thing about this sending may be that these disciples are so obviously imperfect.
- They did not understand Christ's teaching (4:10-13).
- They did not deeply trust him in the storm (4:38).
- They are not as perceptive as Christ might expect (5:31).
- And yet Christ sends them out as an powerful extension of his own ministry.

### 3. John's Head and Herod 6:14-29

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- 6:16 Herod's statement about John is not really consistent with any belief system of that day, Jewish or pagan.
- People often start thinking crazy things when their conscience is in complete turmoil

### 3. John's Head and Herod 6:14-29

- 6:17 Herodias divorced her first husband Philip to marry Herod Antipas, who was Philip's half brother.
- She was the daughter of Aristobulus, a third Herod brother.
- 6:22 The historian Flavius Josephus (~37 – 100AD), tells us that the name of this daughter of Herodias was Salome.
- She then became Herod's step-daughter, but was at the same time his niece (on her father's side) and great-niece (on her mother's side).<sup>2</sup>

### 3. John's Head and Herod 6:14-29

- In a family known for foolishness and corruption, the execution of John is not that remarkable.
- The Herod was famously twisted and prone to selfish things.
- This highlights the potential cost of discipleship.
- We should never imagine that serving God faithfully guarantees us favor with the world.

## 4. The Twelve Return 6:30-32

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- That little missions assignment turned out to be a complete success and now it's time for a break.
- Jesus is building the faith of his disciples by giving them experience in serving him.
- In the Bible we often see people trained for ministry in something like an apprenticeship.

## 4. The Twelve Return 6:30-32

- Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Paul and Timothy are just a few of the biblical examples.
- In other words, actual service begins long before the disciple's education is complete.
- Much of the disciple's training happens on the job.

## 5. Feeding the 5000 6:33-44

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- This miracle is recorded in all four of the Gospels.
- The Holy Spirit clearly wanted to make sure we knew it.
- We will only look at it briefly.

## 5. Feeding the 5000      6:33-44

- 6:34      Christ's compassion led him to teach the people before he did anything else – and for a long time.
- 6:35-36      The disciples believe they have a practical idea.
- 6:37      Yet Christ says, “You give them something to eat.”
- This is more on-the-job training of the disciples by Jesus.

## 5. Feeding the 5000    6:33-44

- 6:42    They all ate and were satisfied.
- They didn't just eat, but Jesus made sure they were full.
- 6:43    twelve baskets    I like to think there was a basket of leftovers for each of the twelve disciples.
- 6:44    The whole crowd might easily have been 10,000.

## 6. Walking on Water 6:45-52

## 6. Walking on Water 6:45-52

- 6:46 Notice how often Jesus gets away by himself to pray.
- 6:52 **They did not understand** In years past I probably used to be less patient with the disciples.
- Now I'm encouraged by their lack of understanding.
- We today have that in common with them much of the time.
- If God used them to get the church started, it's a safe bet he can still use us to keep it going.

## 7. Healing the Sick 6:53-56

## 7. Healing the Sick 6:53-56

- 6:56 Christ's ministry took place in the marketplace (*agora*) of each place they went. This is where:
  - People conducted their daily business (7:4)
  - Scribes expected to be greeted (12:38)
  - Laborers looked for work (Matt 20:3)
  - Children played (Matt 11:16) <sup>3</sup>
- Numerous sick were now healed, eagerly touching the fringe of Jesus's garment.

# Mark 6    What We Just Read

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# Mark 6 Key Points

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- The disciples began to serve as Christ's representatives long before their education was finished.
- Engaging in ministry is not something that happens when our training is complete. It is part of our training.
- Both John the Baptist and Jesus were rejected during their lifetimes despite their faithfulness to God.
- There is always a cost to discipleship.
- We cannot expect to be treated differently in this world.

## Mark 6    Key Points



*The cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.*

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906 – 1945),  
in *The Cost of Discipleship*

# Mark 6    A Prayer

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- Heavenly Father,
- We understand that you have called us to lives of ministry, lives of service, here in this world.
- Though our gifts may differ, our responsibility is much the same. We need to live completely for you.
- We also understand that we will continue to learn as we serve. You do not require our training to be complete before you use us, but rather we expect you to train us as we begin to be used.

# Mark 6    A Prayer

- At the same time we need to count the cost.
- Jesus was rejected repeatedly in his hometown of Nazareth. People knew him, but allowed their familiarity to get in the way of seeing who he really was.
- John the Baptist angered selfish rulers who engaged in immoral behavior. It eventually cost him his life. We can expect the same kind of rejection as we seek to serve you.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

## Mark 6    References

1. English, Donald. 1992. *The Message of Mark: the Mystery of Faith* (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL; InterVarsity Press), 120
2. Schnabel. 2017. *Mark*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, (Downers Grove, IVP Academic), 146
3. Schnabel 2017, 159