

II. Mark 6:6b - 8:30



# BOOK ONE

## THE GOSPEL OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

### PART THREE : ONLY BY A MIRACLE OF GRACE CAN WE RECEIVE THE WORD

Mark 6:6b - 8:30

## Mark 6:6-13

Jesus went about among the villages **teaching**.

He calls the twelve (see 3:13-19) and began to send them out (ἀποστέλλω) two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a **staff** (Moses' staff); no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear **sandals** (Exodus 12:11) and not to put on two tunics.

He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust (Acts 13:51) that is on your feet as a testimony against them."

So they went out and proclaimed that all should **repent**.

They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them (James 5:13-16).

## Mark 6:14-17

King Herod (Antipas 4BC - 37AD) heard of it,  
for Jesus' name had become known.

Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and  
for this reason these powers are at work in him."

But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet,  
like one of the prophets of old."

But when Herod heard of it, he said,  
"John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put  
him in prison on account of Herodias,  
his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her.

Mark 6:18-29 Beheading of John the Baptist

## Mark 6:30-34

The apostles (see 6:7 ἀποστέλλω) gather around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.

He says to them, “Come away (‘with him’ see 3:14) to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat (compare 3:20).

And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd (compare Numbers 27:17);

and he began to teach them many things.

## Mark 6:35-38

When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.”

But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.”

They say to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?”

And he says to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.”

When they had found out, they say, “Five, and two fish.”

## Mark 6:39-44

Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties (see Exodus 18:21).

Mark 14:22

Taking the five loaves and the two fish,

Taking a loaf of bread,

he looked up to heaven, and blessed

and blessing,

and broke the loaves,

he broke it,

and gave them to his disciples

gave it to them, and said,

“Take; this is my body.”

to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ‘ate and were filled’ (Psalm 78:29); and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

A record of an event?      Why is it not happening all the time?

A dramatic portrayal of something that is happening all the time?

Recalling the legend of the manna (Exodus 16)

Jesus is the new Moses (recall the Transfiguration) and God is nourishing us through Jesus on our journey to the Promised land.

Soup Kitchens      United Nations care for refugees

Eucharist



Jesus fulfils in his ministry the ministry of the prophets (recall the Transfiguration)

### 1. Elijah and the woman of Zarephath

‘Her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, and the jug of oil did not fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke through Elijah’ (1 Kings 17:15-16).

### 2. Elisha

‘A man came bringing food to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, “They shall eat and have some left.”’ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD’ (2 Kings 4:42-44).

## Isaiah 55:2-3

‘Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant.’

## Isaiah 25:6-8 The Messianic Banquet

## 2 Corinthians 9:8

‘God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance,  
so that by always having enough of everything,  
you may share abundantly in every good work.’

## Mark 6:45-50

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray. (see 1:35 and 14:32-39)

When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he comes towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea (Psalm 77:19; Job 9:8; 38:16)

He intended to pass them by. (see Job 9:11) But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; for they all saw him and were terrified.

## Mark 6:50-53

But immediately he spoke to them and said,  
“Take heart, it is I (Exodus 3:14 *egô eimi*) do not be afraid.”

Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased.  
And they were utterly astounded, for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.  
When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.

## Isaiah 43:1-2

‘Thus says YHWH,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.’

## Isaiah 51:10

‘Was it not you who dried up the sea,  
the waters of the great deep;  
who made the depths of the sea a way  
for the redeemed to cross over?’

## Exodus 15:19

‘The Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.’

## Psalm 77:16,19

When the waters saw you, O God,  
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;  
the very deep trembled.

Your way was through the sea,  
your path, through the mighty waters;  
yet your footprints were unseen.

## Job 9:8

You stretched out the heavens  
and trampled the waves of the Sea

## Mark 6:53-56

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.

When they got out of the boat, people at once recognised Jesus, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.

And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak (compare 5:28); and all who touched it were healed.

## Mark 7:1-5

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gather around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them . (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)

So the Pharisees and the scribes ask him,

“Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”



## Mark 7:6-9

He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written (Isaiah 29:13 LXX), ‘This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition. You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition!”

## Mark 7:10-13

For Moses said, 'Honour your father and your mother'(Deut 5:16); and, 'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.'(Exodus 21:16)

But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, 'Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban' (that is, an offering to God) – then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.”

Dedicate something to God as though it were placed in the temple treasury. Can be later sold or redeemed.

## Mark 7:14-23

Then he called the crowd again and said to them,  
“Listen to me, all of you, and understand:  
there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile,  
but the things that come out are what defile.”

When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He says to them, “Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)

(see Acts 10:1-33; Galatians 2:11-17; Romans 14:13-21; Colossians 2:20-22)

And he said, “It is what comes out of a person that defiles.

For it is from within, from the human **heart**, that evil intentions come (Genesis 6:5): fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy (‘evil eye’), slander, pride, folly.

All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

## The Syrophoenician woman : Mark 7:24-30

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit (see 1:23; 5:2) immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile (Ἑλληνίς), of Syrophoenician origin. She was asking him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

He said to her, “Let the children be fed first (Romans 1:16), for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the little dogs (κυνάριον).” But she says to him, “Sir, even the little dogs under the table eat the little children’s (παιδίων) little crumbs (ψιχίον).”

Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go. The demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

## Healing of a deaf man : Mark 7:31-37 Only in Mark

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

They bring to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they beg him to lay his hand on him.

He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.

Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and says to him,

“Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one. (contrast Mark 5:19 - Gerasene demoniac)

but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.

They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Isaiah 32:3-4

Then the eyes of those who have sight will not be closed,  
and the ears of those who have hearing will listen.

The minds of the rash will have good judgment,  
and the tongues of stammerers will speak readily and distinctly.

Isaiah 35:5-6

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

Ezekiel 24:27

On that day your mouth shall be opened ... and you shall speak  
and no longer be silent. So you shall be a sign to them;  
and they shall know that I am YHWH.

# A re-telling of the Multiplying of the Loaves : Mark 8:1-19

## In Gentile Territory

When there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to them, “I have compassion (σπλαγχνίζομαι) for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way – and some of them have come from a great distance.” His disciples replied, “How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?” He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “**Seven.**” Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground; and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd. They had also a few small fish; and after blessing them, he ordered that these too should be distributed. They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

## Mark 8:10-13

Now there were about four thousand people. He sent them away. And he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

The Pharisees came and began to argue with Jesus, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him.

And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said,

“Why does this generation ask for a sign?

Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.”

And he left them (see 6:11; shake the dust),

and getting into the boat again,

he went across to the other side.



## Mark 8:14-18

The disciples had forgotten to bring any loaves;  
and they had only one loaf with them in the boat.  
And he was cautioning them, saying, “Watch out —  
beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.”

They were saying to one another, “It is because we have no loaves.”

And becoming aware of it, Jesus says to them,

“Why are you talking about having no bread?

Do you still not perceive or understand?

Are your hearts hardened?

Do you have eyes, and fail to see? (4:12 = Isaiah 6:9-10)

Do you have ears, and fail to hear? (7:31-37)

And do you not remember?

## Mark 8:19-21

When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?” They said to him, “Twelve.” (6:35-44)

“And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?” And they said to him, “Seven.” (8:1-10).

Then he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

Blind man of Bethsaida : Mark 8:22-26

Only in Mark

(compare 7:31-37)

Bethsaida



They come to Bethsaida.

Some people bring a blind man to him and beg him to **touch** him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put **saliva** on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he was asking him, “Can you see anything?”

And the man looked up and was saying, “I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.” Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Then he sent him away to his home, saying, “Do not even go into the village.”

## Mark 8:27-30

40ks north of Lake

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi;  
and on the way he was asking his disciples,  
“Who do people say that I am?”

Leaders want to destroy him (3:6)

Family want to restrain him (3:21)

Hometown scandalised at him (6:3)

Disciples fail to understand him (8:21)

And they answered him, “John the Baptist; (see Herod 6:14-15)  
and others, Elijah;  
and still others, one of the prophets.”

He was asking them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter says to him, “You are the **Messiah.**” (see Mark 1:1)

(see 1:25; 1:44; 3:12; 7:36)

And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.