

RTS Women's Study: The Gospel of Mark
#13: Mark 6:30-56: Jesus, the God of the Old Testament

Intro: The Jesus I Never Knew

I. Jesus the Good Shepherd (v.30-44)

A. Jesus Takes Care of His Leaders

- Ministry can be exciting (v.30)
- Ministry can be exhausting (v.31)
 - Exhausted from the many "coming and going"
 - "no leisure even to eat"
- Need to find a balance between these two extremes
 - Need some time away from people: "desolate place"
 - Need to "rest for a while"
 - How are you doing at resting today?

B. Jesus Takes Care of His People

- The people are like sheep
 - They are scattered and "without a shepherd"
 - They are hungry and needy
 - They cannot meet their own needs: would cost "two hundred denarii"
- Jesus is like a good shepherd
 - Jesus "had compassion on them" (v.34)
 - Jesus had them sit down on "green grass" (v.39)—echo of Psalm 23:2
 - Jesus feeds them abundantly so they are "satisfied" (v.42)—echo of Psalm 23:5
- What other miraculous feeding from the OT does this remind you of?

C. Some key applications:

- Do you have compassion on lost and hurting people like Jesus?
- Do you realize God may use you to "feed" them, just like he used the disciples (v.37)?
 - All we can do is give God what we have, even if it's very little (5 loaves, 2 fish)
 - Then we trust God will work through the little to make it enough

II. Jesus the Mighty God (v.45-51)

A. Without Jesus, the Disciples are in Real Danger

- Boats in the ancient world were rather unsafe
- The disciples were on the Sea of Galilee at night: "fourth watch" (v.48)
- The wind storm was severe: "the wind was against them" (v.48)

B. By Walking on Water, Jesus demonstrates his Divinity

- In the OT, it is Yahweh who “walks on the sea”
 - Job 9:8: The Lord is the one “walking on the sea” (περιπατῶν ... ἐπὶ θαλάσσης)
 - Mark 6:48: Jesus is the one “walking on the sea” (περιπατῶν ἐπὶ θαλάσσης)
- In the OT, it is Yahweh that “passes by” people when he reveals himself
 - God said to Elijah: “Go and stand on the mount before the Lord.’ And behold the Lord *passed by.*” 1 Kings 19:11
 - “He meant to pass them by” (v.48)
- In the OT, it is Yahweh that calls himself “I am”
 - “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” Exodus 3:14
 - “Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘I AM. Do not be afraid.’” (v.50)
- In the OT, it is Yahweh who calms the wind and waves
 - “He made the storms be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.” Ps 107:28
 - “And the wind ceased” (v.51)

C. Some Key Applications:

- Do not fear! If this Jesus is for you, who can be against you?
- How many great acts from Jesus is enough for you to trust him?
 - “they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened” (v.52)
 - What great OT story has God controlling the sea and miraculously feeding his people?

III. Jesus the Great Physician (v.53-56)

A. People Brought Their Friends to Jesus

- The people “ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people” (v.55)
- This would have required great travel and great effort
- Then they “implored” Jesus to heal them (v.56)
- Key question: How much effort do you make to bring your friends to Jesus?

B. Jesus is the Great Healer

- In the OT, Yahweh was the great physician:
 - “I am the Lord your healer.” Ex 15:26
 - “O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.” Psalm 30:2
 - Can you think of other OT stories where God healed diseases?
- “And as many as touched [Jesus’ garment] were made well” (v.56)

Discussion Groups

1. How’s your level of ministry exhaustion right now? Be sure to distinguish between being exhausted just because of life’s normal activities, and being exhausted because you are *giving your life to ministry*. How does this passage challenge or encourage you?
2. Share with the group about how your compassion for other people is right now. Is it high? Low? How does this passage help?
3. Do you feel like you still doubt the power of Jesus even though he has come through time and time again? Share with the group one tangible way that God answered your prayers this last year.