

JESUS FEEDING FIVE THOUSAND

MARK 6:41-44

Chapter 6

darrylmckinnon@yahoo.com

- Rejection in Nazareth
- Sending out the 12
- John the Baptist Beheading
- Feeding the 5,000
- Walking on Water

Mark 6: 14-29

John the Baptist Beheaded

- Between the sending of the 12 disciples in v.7-13 and their return in V.30 (their mission could have lasted up to 9 months), Mark takes an unusual opportunity to fill in the gap in time with a **flashback**, describing the death of John the Baptist in dramatic, horrifying detail.
- **This story serves many significant purposes:**
 - To explain Herod's (Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great) reaction to the 12's teaching
 - To show the seriousness of lack of repentance and rejecting Jesus
 - Demonstrates the different soils taught in the Parable of the Sower
 - Foreshadows the Cross
 - Compares the lives of Jesus and John
 - Contrasts the weakness of the earthly king with the strength of the Heavenly King
 - The implied question in v. 1-13, of **Why Don't People See Who Jesus is?** is answered.

2 Question that the Gospel of Mark Answers

1. Who is Jesus?

2. What did He come to Earth to Do?

Mark 6: 14-29

John the Baptist Beheaded

- Herod's confusion as to who Jesus is, speaks to the theme "**Who am I**" (i.e. is He John, Elijah, a prophet, Christ)
- Herod, like the others, **could not see who Jesus was because he would not REPENT**. ("seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand" Mark 4: 11)
- John confronted Herod with the sin of marriage to his brother's wife (Lev. 18:16; 20:21), and Herod acknowledged that John was righteous and holy, and even feared John, thereby making Herod appear to be "good soil" in comparison to his wife Herodias.
- However the comparison between Herod and his wife is an **amazing illustration of the Parable of the Sower**, revealing the difference between soil on the "Path" (Herodias) and soil on "rocky ground" (Herod).
- Herod's birthday was his **opportunity to repent publicly (v.21)**, but this shows that Herod's unwillingness to repent and listen to John and end his marriage became his undoing. Instead, Herod's pride, drunkenness, and sexual lust made him fear his guests (v26) more than God.
- This apparently bizarre, soap-opera-sounding flashback story of John's death clearly had very deep meaning and purpose for being placed in this Chapter by Mark.

Mark 6: 14-29

John the Baptist Beheaded

- Mark implies a **comparison** between **John the Baptist and Jesus**.
 - Both preached the gospel of repentance from sin and faith in the Messiah,
 - Both were hated by those with no direct power (v. 19, not the Kings that hated them),
 - Both died violent deaths by those who knew their innocence, but feared men more than God,
 - Both were taken and buried by friends,
 - Both were killed because of men's refusal to repent
 - John's detailed account of his death appears to be a foreshadow of the Cross to come.
- Mark also implies a **contrast** between **Herod and Jesus**.
 - Mark calls Herod a King, who sends people out to do things and talks of giving away his "kingdom".
 - Mark has shown so far in this gospel that while **Jesus is a rejected preacher, He is a Mighty King**. While **Herod, the apparently powerful "king", is a weak king**, prideful, a drunkard, and under the power of his wife and his servants.

Mark 6: 30-44

Feeding the 5,000

- Jesus now begins to more clearly **reveal who He is** with this miracle (the **only miracle** along with the resurrection that is **repeated in all 4 gospels**, and His most spectacularly visible miracle) followed by the miracle of walking on the water, with prominent Exodus parallels.
- Of the **two feeding miracles** in 6:31 & 8:29, one is in **Jewish territory** and one in **Gentile territory**, and this one is **putting the emphasis on Jesus as the Redeemer of Israel in contrast to Herod**.
- Despite the crowd of 5,000, **Jesus is primarily teaching the 12 disciples**, and these following miracles almost seem deliberately set up to **function like parables**, showing that the feeding miracle has a meaning which must be understood (6:51-52) in order to understand the next.

Mark 6: 30-44

Feeding the 5,000

- **The Exodus** was a revelation of God as Redeemer and Moses knew it would not fulfil the promises to Abraham of God's people in His place under His rule
- **Deut. 31:16**
 - **And the LORD said to Moses:** "... these people will soon prostitute themselves to the foreign gods of the land they are entering. **They will forsake me and break the covenant I made with them.**
- **Deut. 31:16 – Moses Says:** **The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.**
- **When Israel was Exiled** from the land in Babylon because of sin, the prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) prophesied a return from exile, similar to the Exodus, and that there would be a Messianic return.

Mark 6: 30-44

Jesus is the Second Redeemer

- **Moses Redeemed the Hebrews from Physical Slavery**
- **Jesus Redeemed the World from Spiritual Slavery**
 - Jesus & Moses are sent by God to deliver His people – Matt 1:21
 - Jesus & Moses pursued as an infant by a murderous king – Matt. 2:16
 - Jesus & Moses spared in Egypt through providential means – Matt 2:16
 - Jesus & Moses come out of Egypt and enter the wilderness for 40 years/days of testing – Matt 4:1-11
 - Jesus & Moses go up a mountain to deliver a New Law - Matt 5 – 7
 - Jesus & Moses both feed large crowds of people in the wilderness – Matt 14:13-21
 - Jesus & Moses both go to a mountain to see God - Transfiguration

Mark 6: 30-44

Feeding the 5,000

- **Jesus shows us He is the Redeemer** by performing miracles reminiscent of the Exodus by:
 - As the “Good Shepherd” teaching and leading His people,
 - Miraculous bread like manna as in the time of Moses (Ex 16) & prophecy (Is. 55:1-3)
 - Crossing the sea as in the time of Moses & “passing by” in glory.
- The disciples fail to recognize Jesus as Redeemer because they are “hard-hearted” (6:52), fundamentally the same state as Jesus’ enemies.

Mark 6: 30-44

The Clue – “Sheep without a Shepherd”

- Mark tells us that Jesus saw Israel **“like sheep without a shepherd”** (spiritually vulnerable):
 - Moses asked God to provide a successor to lead Israel (**Num. 27:16-18**),
 - Joshua pointed to a Messiah (**Deut. 18:15, 34:9-12**), the Messiah was pictured as a shepherd leading a flock (**Is. 40:9-11**).
 - The failure of Israel's leaders led Micaiah to describe Israel as **“like sheep without a shepherd”** (**1 Kings 22:17**), and especially in **Ezek. 34:1-10; 34:23**
 - In view of the parallels implied in 6: 1-29 between John & Elijah, Herod & Ahab, Herodias & Jezebel, **Jesus’ words in v.34 become a judgement on Herod and the “chief men of Galilee” as the false shepherds of an apostate and idolatrous nation.**
- Jesus’ questions to the disciples shortly before He enabled them to recognize Him as the Messiah (**8:17-19**) show that the **MAIN CLUE** to His identity as **Redeemer** was the **provision of bread** in the two feeding miracles. (like the manna in Ex. 16:32, and predicted in Is. 51:14 ; also Elisha’s multiplying 20 loaves into 200 in 2 Kings 4:42-44 – This is the One greater than Moses & Elijah! (Heb 3:1-6))

Shepherd Imagery in the Old Testament

- **Psalm 23** – “the Lord is my **Shepherd...**”
- **Psalm 77:20** – “You will lead Your people like a **flock**”
- **Psalm 79:13** – “We Your people and the **sheep** of Your pastures will give thanks to You.”
- **Psalm 80:1** – “Give ear O **Shepherd of Israel,** “
- **Psalm 95:7** – “He is our God, and **we are** the people of His pasture and **the sheep of** His hand.”

Prophecy of the Good Shepherd - Ezekiel 34

• Leaders of Israel are the Irresponsible Shepherds

- **34** ...² “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, ... “Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?”
- ⁸... but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock” —... I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them.”

• Jesus, the True Shepherd

- ¹¹ ‘For thus says the Lord GOD: “Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. ... ¹⁵ I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down,” says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ “**I will seek what was lost and bring back** what was driven away, ...”
- ²² **therefore I will save My flock**, and they shall no longer be a prey; **and I will judge** between sheep and sheep. ²³ **I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David.** He shall feed them and be their shepherd.
- ²⁵ “**I will make a covenant of peace with them, ... They shall be safe in their land;** and they shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. ²⁸ And they shall no longer be a prey for the nations, ... ³⁰ Thus they shall know that I, the LORD their God, *am* with them, and they, the house of Israel, *are* My people,” says the Lord GOD.’
- ³¹ “**You are My flock, the flock of My pasture;** you *are* men, and I *am* your God,” says the Lord GOD.

Jesus is the “Son of David”, the Good Shepperd & this is about the Kingdom of God

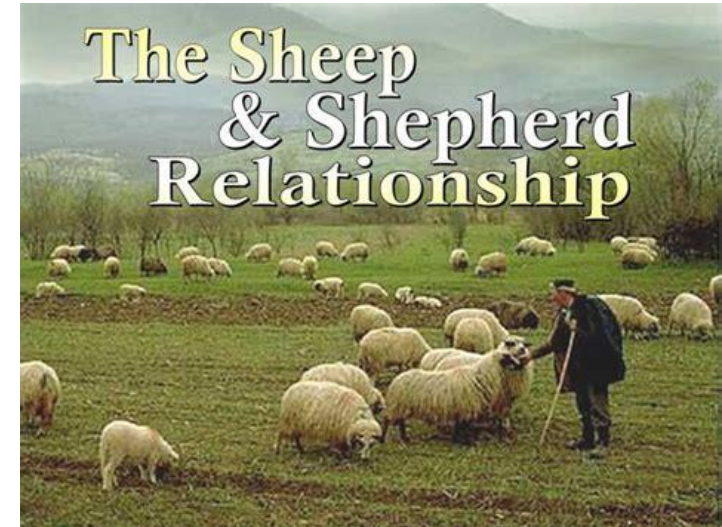
Shepherd Imagery in the New Testament

- The Greek word for shepherd occurs 18 times in the NT.
 - Matthew 9:36; 18:12-14; 25:32; 26:31; Mark 6:34; 14:27; Luke 2:8, 15, 18, 20; John 10:2, 11, 12, 14, 16; Eph 4:11; Heb 13:20; and 1 Pet 2:25.
- **1 Peter 2:25**
- **25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**
- **Hebrews 13:20**
- **20** Now may the God of peace who brought up our **Lord Jesus** from the dead, **that great Shepherd of the sheep**, through the **blood of the everlasting covenant**,

“THE GOOD SHEPHERD”

John 10

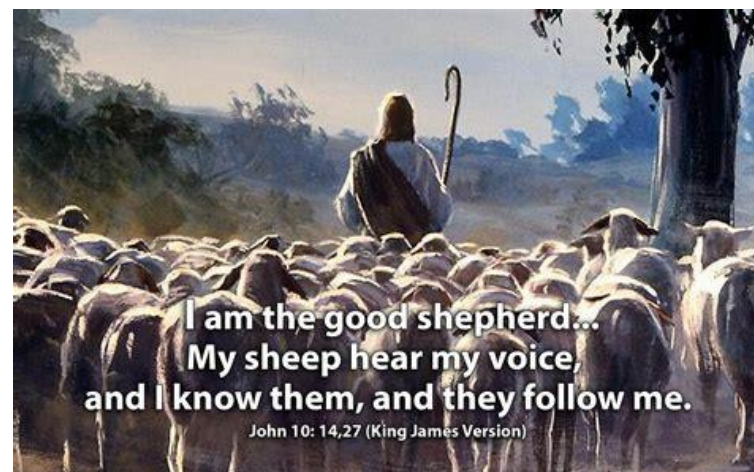
- ² But he who enters by **the door** is the **shepherd of the sheep**.
- ³ ...**the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.**
- ⁴ And when he brings out his own sheep, **he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.** ⁵ Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”



“THE GOOD SHEPHERD”

John 10:10-11, 14-15, 17-18

- **10 I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**
(Not material abundance, but spiritual blessings of eternal life)
- **11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”**
- **14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.** **15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.** (Jesus came to die – Mark 10:45 – to be the Ransom)
- **17 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.**
(The Father’s love is shown in Jesus giving up His life – John 3:16)
- **18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.**



John 10:11

“I AM the good shepherd.”

- **He was claiming that He was God, because they knew**

Psalm 23, “the Lord is my shepherd.”

Mark 6: 30-44

Feeding the 5,000

- Mark goes out of his way to show that the feeding of the 5,000 was really miraculous:
 - Disciples were told to check how much bread was available and the cost was noted (200 denarii was about 8 month's wages),
 - After all 5,000 men had eaten (20,000 including women & children), there was more left over than the original amount,
- When Jesus says **“You give them something to eat”** (6:37), He seems to want them to **recognize their inadequacy, and that He is the prophesied Redeemer.**
- Despite the brevity of Mark, he inserts many vivid details omitted in the other gospels (a hallmark of an eye-witness), such as:
 - Jesus made them sit in groups of 50 & 100 (as did Moses in Ex. 18:24-26)
 - Sit on the “green grass”, providing both a clear picture of the scene
- **Question: When you pray before a meal, do you really think deep that this meal is not the result of you, but the Lord is the giver of all good gifts?**

John 6 Account

“The Bread of Life” Sermon

- [LUMO-GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 6:1-15 – YouTube](#)
- [LUMO-GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 6:15-27 – YouTube](#) 2:15 second mark
- [LUMO-GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 6:28-60 - YouTube](#)

John 6 – The Bread of Life

- ²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”
- ²⁸ Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”
- ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, “**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.**”
- ³⁰ Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ”
- ³² Then Jesus said to them, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**”
- ³⁴ Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”
- ³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will^[f] by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.**”

John 6:25-50

“I AM the Bread of Life” – Summary Meaning

1. By equating Himself with bread, Jesus is saying He is **essential for life**.
2. The life Jesus is referring to is not physical life, but eternal life. He is **contrasting** what He brings as their Messiah with the bread He miraculously created the day before. That was physical bread that perishes. He is **spiritual bread that brings eternal life**.
3. Jesus is making another **claim to deity**. This statement is the first of the great “**I AM**” statements in John’s Gospel. The phrase “I AM” is the covenant name of God (Yahweh, or YHWH), revealed to Moses at the burning bush ([Exodus 3:14](#)).
4. The words “**come**” and “**believe**” describe the **Salvation message** (v.35). This is an invitation for those listening to place their faith in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God.
5. The words “**hunger and thirst**.” In [Matthew 5:6](#), Jesus says, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” Those who come to Him will never hunger and those who believe in Him will never thirst, **means He will satisfy our hunger and thirst to be made righteous in the sight of God**.
6. “**eat My flesh and drink My Blood**” – A metaphor for faith in the sacrificial death of Christ. Like the Last Supper, the act of eating and drinking was to be a symbol of their faith in Christ. Just as physical food gives earthly life, Christ’s sacrifice on the cross gives heavenly life.

Eating His Flesh is Believing; Drinking His Blood is Believing.

This Meaning is stated in the 4 verses of this passage:

- **John 6:27, 29**

- “How do you labor for the food that endures to eternal life? **Believe in me!**”

- **John 6:35**

- “I am the bread of life; whoever *comes* to me [in faith] shall not hunger, and **whoever believes in Me** shall never thirst.”

- **John 6:40**

- “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and **believes** in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

- **John 6:47**

- “Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever believes** has eternal life.”

Beatitudes

Matt. 5:6

- “Blessed *are* those who **hunger** and **thirst** for **righteousness**, For they shall be filled.”
- Message on “Taste & See” by Darryl
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFEF4Shcd5U>

(Mark 6: 45-56)

Jesus Walks on the Sea

- Mark says that **if they did not understand the meaning of the loaves (feeding of 5,000), they could not understand the walking on the water, because their hearts were hardened** (Like the parable of the Sower in Mark 4:13; 4:24-25; Mark 6: 5-6, 6:52). Theme of disciples lack of understanding is shown again in 8:17-18.
- A close review of this passage reveals **multiple miracles**. Jesus omnisciently saw the boat in the storm; He overcame gravity to walk on water; He enabled Peter to walk on water; He stopped the wind and the storm; and He immediately transported the boat to the shore.
- **This miracle identifies Jesus more closely as God than the feeding the 5,000, because:**
 - Jesus goes up on a **mountain to pray**, just as Moses did (**Ex. 34:1-9**)
 - **“passing by”** has different interpretations by scholars, including that He just seemed to be passing by, but was really going to help them, or that He actually meant to pass them by so they would see Him “pass by” walking on the water, giving them visible evidence of His Deity (**Ex. 33: 19; 34:6; Job 9:8; 11**).
 - Jesus shows by “passing by” and declaring **“Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid”**, that He is the **“I AM”** of Ex. 3:14

Jesus Walks on the Sea

(Mark 6: 45-56)

- Old Testament references of Relevance: **Psalm 77:19** “Your way was in the sea, Your path in the great waters”; **Habakkuk 3:15** “You walked through the sea...”; **Job 9:8** “He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea.”
- This is a lesson of faith over fear, not only that we can trust Jesus even in the most hopeless situation, but that we can step out in faith to do seemingly impossible things.
- Mark leaves out the important part of the story described in **Matthew 14: 22-34** where Peter walks on the water towards Jesus. It may be that since Mark was inspired by Peter, and Peter being a humble man, did not want to tell his own story and take any focus from the miracle of Jesus walking on the water.
- The walking on the water miracle was a significant milestone for the disciples’ faith, because for the first time they acknowledged “**Truly You are the Son of God**” Matthew 14:33.

Peter Walks on the Sea

Matthew 14: 25-33

- ²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear.
- ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”
- ²⁸ **And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”**
- ²⁹ **So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”**
- ³¹ **And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”** ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.
- ³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

(Mark 6: 45-56)

Jesus Walks on the Sea

- Mark ends the 6th chapter after getting out of the boat in Gennesaret and people from all over came to Him who were sick, “And as many as touched Him were made well.”
- In Mark 6 we saw two of the biggest miracles yet, and we noted earlier that these **miracles were like parables, teaching us, that if we don’t understand the feeding, we won’t understand the walking on water.**
- In John 6, immediately where Mark leaves off with the healing the sick, Jesus gives his teaching on the **“Bread of Life”** to the crowds who travelled from everywhere the day after the feeding miracle and the walking on the water.
- Jesus says to the crowds **“...you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled...I am the bread of Life...”**. After this difficult teaching, many followers then turned away and **“walked with Him no more”**, prompting Jesus to ask the disciples **“Do you also want to go away?”** (John 6:: 67). But at this point in John, Peter declares **“Lord, to whom shall we go...You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”** (John 6:: 68-69)
- In Both Matthew and John, we see that it was after this Walking on Water and understanding the Feeding miracle where Peter makes his first declaration of Who Jesus is. But in Mark, Peter does not acknowledge Jesus as Christ until Mark 8:29, when Jesus bluntly asks the disciples **“But who do you say that I am”** ...Peter says...**“You are the Christ”**
- We should all meditate on this lesson. Are we seeking “loaves” or “eternal life”? Do we have faith, even in our trials? Do we have faith to step out and do great things for the Lord?