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Mark 6

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Mark 6.

Topics.

- A prophet is not without honour, except in his hometown.
- Jesus calls the twelve apostles.
- Shake off the dust on your feet.
- John the Baptist is beheaded.
- Sheep without a shepherd.
- Jesus feeds the five-thousand.
- Jesus walks on the Sea of Galilee.
- The true bread from heaven.
- Whoever touched the fringe of Christ's garment was healed.

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter Jesus and the disciple's boat arrived on the other side of Galilee in the country of the Gerasenes, Jesus healed a man named Legion and then returned in a boat with his disciples to the land of Capernaum where he healed Jairus' daughter and a woman that had a discharge of blood for twelve years.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

MARK 6:1-6

A Prophet is Not without Honour, Except in His Hometown.

- **Mark 6:1-6:** He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴And Jesus said to them (the Jews in the synagogue) "A prophet is not without honour, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." ⁵And he could do no mighty work there except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

Jesus hometown: Jesus hometown was Capernaum was Jesus hometown and his headquarters for much of his public ministry and his place of abode (Matt. 4:13) (Luke 4:31) and several of Jesus disciples were from Capernaum. It was a fishing village with a tollbooth and a synagogue on the North shore of the Sea of Galilee in Palestine 2.5 miles west of where the River Jordan enters the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus teaches in his hometown: the disciples and Jesus arrived in Jesus home town and Jesus starts teaching in their synagogue. The townsfolk knew Jesus family, his mother Mary, his brothers James, Joses, Judas, Simon and his sisters very well and only knew Jesus as a carpenter and not a priest or scribe so they are all astonished at Jesus teaching and puzzled wondering how he did the mighty miracles he did and how he knew the Scriptures so well. The religious Jews of the synagogue took offence at Jesus teaching in the synagogue especially since it was the Sabbath Day.

A prophet is not without honour, except in his hometown (v4) this is a common principle that applies to almost all Christians who God has gifted. Those who don't know them give them more honour for their gift than their own family and their own friends this is most likely because their family and friends are familiar with them and know all their faults and failings.

NOTICE: how beautifully the Bible translators write, "The carpenter's son and leave out the name of Joseph the supposed father of Jesus (v3).

The words:

- Jesus could do no mighty work there (v5).

Only applies to that day and that synagogue (though he did heal a few on that day), but he actually did do quite a few amazing miracles in Capernaum.

In Capernaum Jesus healed:

- The paralytic man lowered through the roof (Matt. 9:1-26).
- A woman with a discharge of blood for twelve years (Matt. 9:1-22).
- A ruler's daughter who had died (Matt. 9:1-23).
- Two blind men (Matt. 9:1-30).
- A man that was mute and believed to be demon-oppressed (Matthew 9:1-33).
- A man with an unclean spirit on a Sabbath day (Mark 1:21-28).
- Simon's Peters mother in law sick with a fever (Mark 1:21-30).
- All who were brought to him who were sick (Mark 1:21-32).
- Everyone who came to him oppressed by demons (Mark 1:21-32).
- A man with a withered hand (Mark 2:1, 15) (Mark 3:1-5).
- A Roman Centurion servant who was seriously sick (Luke 7:1-10).
- A man's son who was at the point of death (John 4:46-53).
- When the whole city gathered together Jesus healed many who had various diseases and demons (Mark 1:21-34).

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Other events that took place in Capernaum.

- Peter took a shekel from a fish's mouth (Matt 17:24-27).
- Jesus told the people that he was the true bread of life (John 6:59).
- Feeding the five-thousand took place in Bethsaida which was very close to Capernaum.

Jesus fame throughout Capernaum and Galilee: Matthew in his writings records that the testimony of Jesus raising the rulers daughter from the dead went throughout all Capernaum and Mark writes that Jesus fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee (Capernaum was in the district of Galilee) so it pretty certain that the people of Jesus hometown had heard of all the other miracles Jesus did in Capernaum and the surrounding area (Matt. 9:26) (Mark 1:21-27).

Jesus marveled because of their unbelief: (v6) no Christian should feel less, deflated or discouraged because their attempt to witness has fallen on deaf ears. Jesus had perfect knowledge of the Scriptures and was able to perform spectacular healings, yet many of those who heard him still remained in unbelief which also astonished the Lord himself.

The people of Capernaum knew Jesus ability to heal the sick and do mighty works that is why Jesus was astonished at the people's unbelief (Mark 6:2).

Jesus prophesy against Capernaum: in the book of Matthew and of Luke Jesus says of his hometown, the people of Capernaum think they will be exalted to heaven, but instead they will be brought down to the grave, because if the mighty miracles that were done in their town had been done in Sodom they would have repented and remained until this day. (Matt. 11:23) (Luke 10:15). Jesus prophecy was so completely fulfilled that the town has completely disappeared.

MARK 6:7-13

Jesus calls the Twelve Apostles.

- **Mark 6:7-13:** And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts—⁹but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰And he said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹And if any place will not receive you (the apostles) and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³And they cast out many demons (daimon) (devil in KJV) and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

Jesus sends the twelve out two by two and gives them authority over unclean spirits.

Unclean: (akathartos) does not always relate to moral sin but has a wider meaning that embraces anything that it is not of God. The Jews considered the uncircumcised, the Gentiles and anything not Jewish unclean, meaning without forgiveness or redemption. Sin is identified with uncleanness and false prophets and doctrines are called unclean spirits. Idols or anything that is opposed to God ethically, sexually, religiously, ceremonially or by ritual is called unclean. The people of Jesus generation believed that mental illnesses and sickness (including blindness deafness and paralysis) were a result of demon possession and therefore people with such sickness were spoken of as being unclean or having an unclean spirit. Demons and unclean spirits are often interchangeable terms and carry the same meaning. Jesus spoke to the physical sickness' saying be healed and the people were healed by the spoken word of Jesus in the same way Jesus speaks to the mental sickness' saying come or depart out and the person is healed it is Jesus' word that has the power to heal mental or physical sickness. In the New Testament unclean can often mean unsaved because both unclean and unsaved primarily mean separated from God and the phrase, "Many with unclean spirits," can apply to those who were not Jews (God's chosen people), those who were separated from God or people who had mental disorders or sickness that the people of Jesus generation did not understand.

Jesus gave them authority over the unclean spirits (v7). In (v7) we are told Jesus gave the twelve authority over the unclean spirits then in (v13) it reads they cast out many demons, thus demons and unclean spirits are the same thing, which in this context primarily refers to mental illnesses' and sickness that the people did not understand.

For further information see the titles:

- Demons.
- Unclean spirits.

Both titles are in Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Shake off the dust on your feet: Jesus tells the twelve they were not to take food, extra clothing or money when they go out to proclaim the Gospel all they were to take was sandals, one set of clothing and a staff. Perhaps Jesus did not want them to take money because of the danger of being robbed, or so that they would have to trust in the provision of God. When the apostles entered a city or village, they were to find a house that would allow them to eat and sleep in it while they proclaimed the Gospel to that city. Jesus sent them out in groups of two, it is possible they may have found a house that would put up the whole twelve, but it is more likely that they would find six separate houses so that each house would only have to support two of them and if not all of them found a house that would welcome them in they could go onto the next town. Some of these towns were cities so the apostles could be quiet some distance from each other and yet still be in the same city.

If there was no house that would allow the apostles to stay then they were to shake the dust of their feet as a testimony against that town. They were not to carry the burden or worry about those who refuse to accept the Gospel, but move onto the next village or city. For those who have a passion for Christ it can be an overwhelming burdened when people reject the Gospel, especially an entire town, but the Lord does not want his apostles to carry the burden of other people's deliberate denial of him so he tells them to simply move onto those towns and to other people that do want to hear the Gospel. Jesus is basically saying, let each town or person be responsible for their own choices, let them carry their own burden, don't destroy your own joy in Christ because others are rejecting the Gospel message of grace and mercy rather go onto to those who will embrace it.

This was God's method of getting the Gospel out to as many people as possible.

NOTICE: the message the apostles proclaimed was that people should repent (repentance is the beginning of salvation) (v12).

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MARK 6:14-29

John the Baptist is Beheaded.

- **Mark 6:14-29:** King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." ¹⁷For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. ¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him (John the Baptist) to death. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²²For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." ²³And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." ²⁴And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." ²⁵And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. ²⁷And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison ²⁸and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

King Herod: Herod's brother was Phillip and Phillip was the lawful husband of Herodias who was having an affair with Herod. John told Herod it was wrong for him to be having an adulterous affair with Phillip's wife Herodias. Herodias was offended and so forced the hand of Herod to have John the Baptist killed.

Ponder for a moment: Herod feared John, but he kept him safe while in prison because he knew John was a righteous and holy man and even though Herod was greatly perplexed when John did speak to him he gladly listened and after being tricked into having John beheaded he was exceedingly sorry to have to have to do it (v20, 23). Herod obviously knew John very well and respected him as a holy man, so imagine his fear when he hears and believes the (mis-guided) rumours that John the Baptist has risen from the dead and is healing the sick.

NOTICE: some people thought Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead others thought he was Elijah while many thought he was a prophet like one of the prophets of the Old Testament. Even Jesus twelve apostles did not fully understand who Jesus really was until after his death and resurrection. Until then they most likely believed he was a great prophet like one of the great prophets of the Old Testament. That is why when Jesus asked Peter, "Who does he believe he is?" And Peter replied "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said, "Blessed are you, Peter because flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 16:15-17).

MARK 6:30-34

The Apostle's Great Excitement.

- **Mark 6:30-34:** The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When 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.

Jesus tries to have some time with the twelve to relax, because they have had no time for leisure or even to eat so they sail to a desolate place, but people ran on foot after them so by the time they arrive at what they thought was going to be a quiet place of rest there are already crowds waiting for them. This is one of the reasons why Jesus often told those he healed not to tell anyone, because once people found out he could heal they came to him by the multitudes and his primary ministry was not to heal but to take the Gospel to cities, towns and villages and teach the twelve apostles. Nevertheless, Jesus is moved by compassion and rather than rest begins to teach

Sheep without a shepherd: (v34). The religious leaders the chief priest, Pharisees and scribes should have been the peoples shepherds, but they had become so legalistic and full of selfish ambition and pride that rather than shepherd them used them as merchandise for their own gain, they oppressed them and laid heavy burdens on them contrasted to Jesus whose heart was always for the people, those that were seeking God always came before what he wanted for himself.

MARK 6:35-45

Jesus Feeds the Five-Thousand.

- **Mark 6:35-45:** And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶Send them away to go into the surrounding

countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”³⁹ Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass.⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all.⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied.⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.⁴⁴ And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

It is late in the evening Jesus has been ministering all day without rest yet his concern is still for the crowd and not himself. The crowd (of about five-thousand) has no food so Jesus tells the disciples to feed them, but they tell him they would need two-hundred denarii to do that (1 denarii was a day's wages) so Jesus has the crowd sit in groups of fifty on the green grass. He takes five loafs of bread and two fish and prays and not only did everyone have enough to eat the disciples also took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces of the bread and some fish. After this event Jesus immediately made his disciples get into the boat and sail before him to Bethsaida on the other side of the Lake of Galilee while he remained behind and sent those in the crowd home.

MARK 6:46-52

Jesus Walks on the Sea of Galilee.

- **Mark 6:46-52:** And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.⁴⁷ And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land.⁴⁸ And he (Jesus) saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them,⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out,⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." ⁵¹ And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded,⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

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Pass: can mean, to pass or go by or to come near or alongside, therefore in the original Greek language the verse probably does not mean that Jesus was intending to walk past the disciples the boat especially since the whole purpose he went to the disciples was to help them, it is more likely that it means, Jesus intended to come near or alongside them.

Jesus alone time with his heavenly Father is cut short: Jesus has just spent days ministering to the crowds, finally he is alone, the multitudes are gone and the disciples are sailing across the Sea of Galilee, so he goes up a mountain to pray, imagine for a moment his joy, finally some quiet and alone time to spend with his heavenly Father (this is probably why he did not go with the disciples). But his time with the Father was cut short because he sees his disciples in trouble and so he goes to them walking on the waters of the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus was able to transcend the laws of our planet: Jesus in his mortal body prior to his resurrection was able to transcend the laws of physics and the natural laws of our planet as we know them, not only has he supernaturally produced bread and fish to feed thousands, but now he is walking on water. When the disciples saw him they were astounded, but the words, "For they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened" (52) meaning their minds were blinded implies that if the disciples had understood the feeding of the five-thousand they would have understood that Jesus was who he said he was, "The Son of

God the true bread of life,” and that being God’s Son he was not bound to the laws of the human body, the laws of physics or the laws of our planet as we know them to be. Even when Judas the betrayer came with a great crowd with swords and clubs to seize Jesus, Jesus told his disciples that he could appeal to his heavenly Father and He would immediately send more than twelve legions of angels to his aid? The full power of God the Father was at any given moment only a prayer away for His Son the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 26:53-56).

The true bread from heaven: it appears that the disciples did not fully understand the miracle that had taken place with the feeding of the five-thousand, perhaps this is why a few months later when Jesus asks them for fish and bread to feed the four-thousand they seem bewildered, neither did they understand the spiritual and symbolic message it proclaimed and the link to the Old Testament manna from heaven. In the book of John it is written that God gave the people of Israel bread from heaven to eat, but they later died (John 6:31) contrasted to this Old Testament bread that only sustained mortal life Jesus tells the people that he is the true bread that God sent and whoever eats this bread will live forever. (John 6:58) and in the book of Revelation it is written to the one who conquers the Lord will give the hidden manna (eternal life). (Revelation 2:17).

MARK 6:53-56

Multitudes come to Jesus to be Healed.

- **Mark 6:53-56:** When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. ⁵⁴And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him ⁵⁵and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

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Jesus and the disciple's boat arrive in Gennesaret (this is where Jesus healed the man named Legion) it is the city that had previously rejected Jesus, but while Christ has been away the people of the city have not only heard the man named Legion testimony but seen him living a normal life in his right mind and most likely have heard of the many other amazing miracles that Jesus has performed, because now the people of the region immediately bring everyone they know who is sick to him.

Whoever touched the fringe of Christ’s garment was healed: one aspect of God’s glory is healing; God’s Spirit instantly heals whoever it touches. This spirit of healing was flowing through the body of the Lord Jesus Christ, everyone who came in contact with Jesus came in contact with God’s Spirit and therefore they were instantly healed, regardless of their moral values or religious beliefs they were automatically healed because the body of the Lord Jesus Christ contained the Spirit of God and this majestic healing power was flowing out through Christ to whoever came to him, there was no-one standing at a gate to qualify if a person was worthy or not, such is the glory and wonder of the grace and mercy of God.

For further information see:

- Satan.
- Devil.
- Demons.
- Unclean Spirits.

All titles are in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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