

22S47 Mark 6:33-43 (Part 13)

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 6:33-56 (Part 13); feeding of the five thousand, Jesus walks on water, healing at Gennesaret (jen-sr-ay).

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let's read Mark 6:33-56 (NAS) ³³*The people saw them going, and many recognized them and ran there together on foot from all the cities, and got there ahead of them.* ³⁴*When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.* ³⁵*And when it was already late, His disciples came up to Him and said, "This place is secluded and it is already late; ³⁶send them away so that they may 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 spend two hundred denarii on bread, and give it to them to eat?"* ³⁸*But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go look!" And when they found out, they said, "Five, and two fish."* ³⁹*And He ordered them all to recline by groups on the green grass.* ⁴⁰*They reclined in groups of hundreds and fifties.* ⁴¹*And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food and broke the loaves and He gave them to the disciples again and again to set before them; and He divided the two fish among them all.* ⁴²*And they all ate and were satisfied; ⁴³and they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces of bread, and of the fish.* ⁴⁴*There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.* ⁴⁵*And immediately Jesus had His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He Himself dismissed the crowd.* ⁴⁶*And after saying goodbye to them, He left for the mountain to pray.* ⁴⁷*When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land.* ⁴⁸*Seeing them straining at the oars—for the wind was against them—at about the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them.* ⁴⁹*But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they thought that it was a ghost, and they cried out; ⁵⁰for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be*

afraid.”⁵¹ Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished,⁵² for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.⁵³ When they had crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored at the shore.⁵⁴ And when they got out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him,⁵⁵ and ran about that entire country and began carrying here and there on their pallets those who were sick, to wherever they heard He was.⁵⁶ And wherever He entered villages, or cities, or a countryside, they were laying the sick in the marketplaces and imploring Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and all who touched it were being healed.

Let’s pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Now remember earlier in Mark chapter 6 Jesus had sent the 12 disciples out to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God. Both John Chapter 6 and Matthew 14 have versions of this story. Now they have returned and reported what happened. Jesus is taking them to a secluded area, most likely somewhere on the west side of the sea of Galilee south of Capernaum. Let’s take a closer look at these verses, Mark 6:33-34 (NAS) *³³The people saw them going, and many recognized them and ran there together on foot from all the cities, and got there ahead of them.³⁴ When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.*

Jesus and disciples are trying to get away for some rest but Jesus knows exactly what is going to happen. They travel by boat but the people can see them and follow along the seashore. So, Jesus does what Jesus does, He shows them compassion and teaches them.

Then, Mark 6:35-36 (NAS) *³⁵And when it was already late, His disciples came up to Him and said, “This place is secluded and it is already late; ³⁶send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”*

The disciples still think they are the practical ones. They are telling Jesus what to do. Their advice makes sense. Now Mark 6:37-38 (NAS) *³⁷But He answered them, “You give them something to eat!” And they said to Him, “Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread, and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸But He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go look!” And when they found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”*

I want us to imagine what the disciples are thinking. How in can we possibly feed all these people. What Jesus is asking is impossible. But the disciples are obedient, they go and find out what they have. Five small loaves of bread and two fish. Maybe enough for two or three people. But there are more than five thousand men plus women and children. Many thousands, Now what.? Mark 6:39-44 (NAS) *³⁹And He*

ordered them all to recline by groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰They reclined in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food and broke the loaves and He gave them to the disciples again and again to set before them; and He divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And they all ate and were satisfied; ⁴³and they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces of bread, and of the fish. ⁴⁴There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.

This is probably my favorite miracle story in the bible. Two little fish and five loaves of bread. Then you factor in Jesus. More than five thousand are feed and twelve large baskets are filled with the leftovers. This is exactly how God works in our lives still today. Give God your little and trust in Him completely, and watch what God does. You just need to be obedient to Jesus and do what He is asking you to do.

Next Mark 6:45-46 (NAS) *⁴⁵And immediately Jesus had His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He Himself dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶And after saying goodbye to them, He left for the mountain to pray.*

I have to admit this part of the story has always bothered me. Jesus sends His disciples away with the boats to the other side of the sea. How is He going to get there? Did the disciples even wonder or were they still so shocked about the feeding miracle they just did what Jesus told them. So, Jesus stays and sends everyone home. He goes off by Himself to pray. Then, Mark 6:47-52 (NAS) *⁴⁷When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land. ⁴⁸Seeing them straining at the oars—for the wind was against them—at about the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them. ⁴⁹But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they thought that it was a ghost, and they cried out; ⁵⁰for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, “Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid.” ⁵¹Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, ⁵²for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.*

In the account in the gospel of Matthew, Peter walks on the water with Jesus. Please take the time to read both John Chapter 6 and Matthew chapter 14 allow with Mark chapter 6, When you read the stories together, the different perspectives make the story come alive. Next Mark 6:53-56 (NAS) *⁵³When they had crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored at the shore. ⁵⁴And when they got out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, ⁵⁵and ran about that entire country and began carrying here and there on their pallets those who were sick, to wherever they heard He was. ⁵⁶And wherever He entered villages, or cities, or a countryside, they were laying the sick in the marketplaces and imploring Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and all who touched it were being healed.*

We aren't completely sure where Gennesaret is but Jesus had said they were heading to Bethsaida in the northeast of the sea of Galilee. So most scholars assume this is in the northeast area near Bethsaida.

Let's review.

- 1) You, do it? Did Jesus really expect His disciples to feed all those people. Well know. Jesus wanted them to trust Him and this was a very powerful demonstration. The feeding of the five thousand mesmerizes me. Somebody's lunch feeds more than five thousand and twelve baskets of leftovers.
- 2) Obedience? What was required for this miracle. The Disciples had to be obedient, even if it seemed crazy. It's the same for us. Just do what Jesus is asking you to do, let Jesus handle the miracle, we just need to be obedient.
- 3) Walking on Water. This is an amazing sequence of events. John Chp 6, Mark Chp 6 and Matthew Chp 14. Think about it, Jesus walked on water. And in Matthew's account Peter walked on the water too, until he doubted. What can we do if we only trust in Jesus.?

Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen

Let me leave you with this, these two miracle stories show us that anything is possible if we trust in Jesus. There are no limits on what God can do, only limits on what we believe God can do. It does not mean God will do whatever we want Him to do. But it does mean, that when we believe and trust God, we have the opportunity to see glimpses of what paradise will be like someday when we are with Jesus. As Christians, our focus needs to be obedience to what Jesus is commanding us to do.

What does this mean for you? Trust God, He is worthy of all our trust. Don't limit God but also don't think God is required to give you what you want. God knows better. We all get disappointed. We all have sorrows and pain. That's just life on earth. But in the middle of whatever you are going through remember who Jesus is. Look for God in your situation. Look for God in you past situations. Remember the glimpses of paradise you have seen in your life. Then be encouraged, God has not forgotten you. Jesus said you are blessed, not because of your situation but because He loves you (Matthew 5). Your temporary suffering won't last long (1 Peter 5:10), stay focused on Jesus and who Jesus is.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.