

# Building Disciples

## Mark Chapter 6

A few things Jesus learned as a carpenter (builder):

- He learned that there is a lot of potential in a log.
- He learned it takes work and time to make something useable.
- He learned that the finest things are made from the hardest wood.

### Mar 6:1 1) A Dishonored Prophet vs 1-6

Jesus went out from there and \*came into His hometown; and His disciples \*followed Him.

- Jesus returns to Nazareth with His disciples. On the Sabbath He is in the synagogue teaching.

Mar 6:2 When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man {get} these things, and what is {this} wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?"

Mar 6:3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.

- The people were astonished. Astonished is different than being in awe. Awe is if filled with belief at something that had occurred that is inspiring or exceptional. Astonishment is a close kin to awe but has a taste of unbelief. Like "the magician astonished the crowd with his tricks."
- The people doubted that this Jesus could teach and do miracle even though they saw and heard these things.
- The people were offended. Success of our own people can be met with offence due to 1) a sense of jealousy 2) sense of guilt. Jealousy in that one could feel that they could have the same opportunity and Guilt in that one could feel that they should have done more with the opportunities they had.
- Familiarity breeds contempt Phillip Brooks said "The contempt these people show says more about them than it does about Jesus."
- The list of brothers and sisters show us that Mary had other children after Jesus was born. At least 4 brother and 2 sisters.

Mar 6:4 Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his {own} relatives and in his {own} household."

- Repeated in Luke 4:34 & John 4:44
- When be become "born again" family and our old friends will not readily accept our change.
- An Illustration: When I received Christ I was ½ way thru college. High School and the 1<sup>st</sup> two years of College were filled with partying and drugs. When I received Christ I became a new creation. "Old things had passed away behold all things became new." One day, in a large assembly, I heard a friend talking loudly, wanting to be overheard, "There's Routhe, I heard he's got religion." He went on to say, "It won't last. He is always into something then something else will come along. You'll see. Next month it will be something else." Those words really did hit me and I considered them carefully. It is interesting. He was looking at me according to the flesh. But I was born again. Born in the spirit. I was a new creation that he could neither see or understand.
- 2 Corinthians 5:16 "Wherefore Henceforth know we, no man after the flesh."

Mar 6:5 And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.

Mar 6:6 And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching.

- The people's unbelief or expectation limited what Jesus could do.
  - Because of God's commitment to partner with man
  - Because Jesus was not a glory seeker but knew he would be rejected of men
- Their unbelief caused Jesus to wonder or (KJV) marveled. Interesting choice of words. Marveled isn't an angry word. It is a word that conveys that a person would stop to take notice of. To be filled with bewilderment.
- 2 times this word is used. Once here Jesus stops and takes notice of unbelief and another time when the centurion asks Jesus to heal his son by sending only His word. Matt 8:8-10 Jesus marveled at his faith. Jesus marveled once at unbelief and once at faith. What does Jesus marvel in your life?
- FAITH - The problem with Christians is that we try to duplicate events. Jesus healed one time this

way and that becomes our formula. Lets look at this:

- Disciples fearing and Jesus rebukes them for their lack of faith
- Crippled man lowered. Sins forgiven and healed because of friends faith
- Gadarene Demoniac had no faith
- Jairus, we don't know where his faith is. It was up and down.
- Woman touching hem of garment had great faith
- Jairus' daughter had no faith, she was dead but risen
  - Faith was all over the place. The only constant element was Jesus.

## Mar 6:7 2) The Twelve Sent Out vs 7-16

And He \*summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits;

- "send out" = *apostello*
- "authority" / "power" (KJV) = *exousia* right or rule not dunames which is a power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature (The Holy Spirit by his nature has this power. And He was given to Christians in Acts chapter 2.) But *exousia* is better translated authority. A lawful rule. Here Jesus gives that rule to disciples over unclean spirits.
- Luke 10:20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

Mar 6:8 and He instructed them that they should take nothing for {their} journey, except a mere staff--no bread, no bag, no money in their belt--

Mar 6:9 but {to} wear sandals; and {He added,} "Do not put on two tunics."

- The disciples are being trained. It is a matter of trust. In the ministry to come these disciples will experience circumstances that they will find themselves in these situations.
- They will need to know they can trust Jesus when times are tough, money or provision is thin.

Mar 6:10 And He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town.

Mar 6:11 "Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off the soles of your feet for a testimony against them."

- The Jews when they came from another country that was not friendly to them they would shake the dust off their sandals so as not to pollute their land.
- It wasn't the disciples job to convince or persuade. But to preach the Gospel
- (KJV) adds "Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city." This is a passage that is not found in the more recently found older Greek manuscripts. The more modern translations use the older Greek manuscripts for their translations.

Mar 6:12 They went out and preached that {men} should repent.

- When Jesus sent these out. The message was REPENT. Jesus first message is REPENT Mark 1:15 & Matthew 2:2 Peter's first message was REPENT. Acts 2:38. Peter & John after healing at the Gate Beautiful summarized their defense by telling the people to REPENT Acts 3:19. Paul preached in Athens that "God commands men everywhere to REPENT Acts 17:30 Jesus in 4 of the 7 churchs He admonishes them to REPENT Revelation 2+3
- REPENT AND BELIEVE - turn around from unbelief and to believe. Not just turn from sinning.

Mar 6:13 And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them. ."

- Wonderful works of God were happening as these 6 groups of two went out. Demons were cast out and the sick were healed.
- This is only one time in the gospels that using oil is mentioned. The book of James 5:14-15 also mentions using oil. But it was the prayer of faith that raises up the sick. Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit being upon someone. The oil doesn't heal. God does.

Mar 6:14 And King Herod heard {of it,} for His name had become well known; and {people} were saying, "John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are

at work in Him." ."

- Herod heard of the miracles that were taken place. They were also tied to a man named Jesus. People in Herod's court was saying the John the Baptist had risen from the dead.
- Herod worried that it was true.

Mar 6:15 But others were saying, "He is Elijah." And others were saying, "{He is} a prophet, like one of the prophets {of old.}"

Mar 6:16 But when Herod heard {of it,} he kept saying, "John, whom I beheaded, has risen!"

Mar 6:17 **3) The Death of John the Baptist** vs 17-29

For Herod himself had sent and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her. ."

- The Herods. There are four of them in scripture (They were ruthless)
- Herod the Great - Tried to murder Jesus
- Herod Antipas - Had John the Baptist Killed
- Herod Agrippa I - Had John the Baptist Killed
- Herod Agrippa II - Had James killed and was almost converted by Paul

Mar 6:18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ."

- John the Baptist was calling out the powers and naming their sin.
- Herod had him arrested.

Mar 6:19 Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death and could not {do so;}

Mar 6:20 for Herod was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. And when he heard him, he was very perplexed; but he used to enjoy listening to him. ."

- Herod was afraid of John for the reason that he was righteous. The message was REPENT. John called and named Herod's sin.
- Yet Herod enjoyed John. He told the truth. He didn't tell him what he wanted to hear.
- As we go the same thing happens. Sometimes we will have people encounter us and like Herodias they will develop a grudge. Then there will be others that will be afraid yet enjoy the conversations.

Mar 6:21 A strategic day came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his lords and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee; ."

- This is what we see our daughters learning from modern media how to influence men and get their way. Through sensuality and lust.

Mar 6:22 and when the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you want and I will give it to you."

Mar 6:23 And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you; up to half of my kingdom." ."

- Herod, after much drinking and Herodias daughter seductively danced before a number of drunken men and the power of that seduction caused Herod to offer foolishly up to half his kingdom.

Mar 6:24 And she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist."

- The daughter is under the counsel of her mother, who wants John the Baptist dead.

Mar 6:25 Immediately she came in a hurry to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

Mar 6:26 And although the king was very sorry, {yet} because of his oaths and because of his dinner guests, he was unwilling to refuse her.

- Herod was trapped by his pride. His promise was before his lords and military commanders. He couldn't lose face with these men.



- YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT - Remember the disciples are still in school. Earlier Jesus sent them out taking no food, no money and no extra clothes and they were learning to trust God.
- Here two more lessons
  - You give them. They needed to learn to have compassion. The People are your ministry
  - Something to eat. Again they needed to trust in the provision of God. They are still learning that lesson.
- The disciples looked at what they had in the bank. They didn't have anything. But Jesus wanted them to Go and Give anyway.

Mar 6:38 And He \*said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go look!" And when they found out, they \*said, "Five, and two fish."

- They took inventory. They didn't have much to give. 5 loaves and 2 fish. Verse 44 says there were 5000 men. Add to that the women and children and this could be upwards to 10000 people.
- Have you taken inventory and have you seen that you do not have much to give. You do not have much to offer. Compared to the task all I have is 5 loaves and 2 fish.  
Let's assume the fish are big sea fish and with the loaves you could feed 10 people.  
 $10000 \div 10 = 1000$  groups     $1000 \times 2$  fish is 2000    and  $1000 \times 5$  loaves = 5000
- Your meager ability or resources are plenty in the hands of Jesus.
- Remember the disciples were going away because they needed rest. They didn't even have much energy. And to thing energy to feed 10000 people. But Jesus is teaching them that your little offering is enough.

Mar 6:39 And He commanded them all to sit down by groups on the green grass.

- There are no wasted words in the Bible. GREEN GRASS Psalm 23 He makes me lie down in green pastures. The Shepherd feeds the sheep.

Mar 6:40 They sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties.

Mar 6:41 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 kept giving {them} to the disciples to set before them; and He divided up the two fish among them all.

- The disciples have the people set in groups to feed them. (The Church - Multiple groups)
- Jesus takes the loaves and fish and blesses the meal. If it is good enough for Jesus to say grace before a meal it is good enough for me.
- The picture is that Jesus is breaking the bread and fish and filling baskets and the disciples are running between Jesus and the groups of fifties/hundreds.

Mar 6:42 They all ate and were satisfied,

Mar 6:43 and they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces, and also of the fish.

Mar 6:44 There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.

- The people were all satisfied. It was an all you can eat miracle.
- There were even leftovers. The number is interesting ...12. The disciples were first sent out with no food, no money, and no extra clothes. And here after ministering to 10000 people with inadequate means the disciples each picked up a basket for themselves. 12 disciples and 12 baskets.
- The lesson is clear. Go and minister to people give what you got. The Lord will take care of you.
- Remember at the Gate Beautiful "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give to thee." Possibly here is where Peter and John learned to give what they had. Also Luke 21:1-4 Widow mite

There is a story of an Atlantic passenger laying in his bunk in a storm, deathly sick--seasick. A cry of "Man overboard" was heard. The passenger thought, "God help the poor fellow--there is nothing I can do." Then he thought at least he could put his lantern in the port-hole, which he did. The man was rescued, and recounting the story next day he said, "I was going down in the darkness for the last time when someone put a light in a port-hole. It shone on my hand, and a sailor in a lifeboat grabbed it and pulled me in." Weakness is no excuse for our not putting forth all the little strength we have, and who can tell how God will use it?

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"Since God has put His work into your weak hands, look not for long ease here: You must feel the full weight of your calling: a weak man with a strong God."

Lady Culross to John Livingston of the Covenanters, quoted in Prodigals and Those Who Love Them, Ruth Bell Graham, 1991, Focus on the Family Publishing, p. 23.

Mar 6:45  
Sending  
Away

## 5) Straining to Obey vs 45-56

Immediately Jesus **made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead** of {Him} to the other side to Bethsaida, while **He Himself was sending the crowd away.**

- John 6:15 "When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone."
  - Jesus was concerned about the perception of what His mission was. He was not going to be a king made by man's authority
  - The difference between the disciples on the crowd. Disciples were His students learning of Him. The Crowd wanted something from Him that would satisfy their agenda.
- Jesus made or constrained His disciples get in the boat. There are lessons in the life of the disciple where we must be made to learn. We do get to a point as a disciple that we know the best thing is to be with (abide with) Jesus.
- Examples of things that must be learned:
  - Philippians 4:11 "Not that I speak in respect of want; for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, [therewith] to be content." CONTENTMENT / TRUST
  - Hebrews 5:8 "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered." OBEDIENCE
- And go ahead of {Him} In vs 33 + 34 Jesus sees those who ran ahead of Him as sheep without a shepherd. In this passage Jesus, as the disciple's shepherd, sends them ahead of Him...
- He Himself sent the crowd away. This was done for two reasons. First, to place a distance between the crowd and the disciples. The disciples didn't need to have any strange ideas concerning the mission of Jesus. And Secondly, Jesus desired solitary time in prayer

Intercession

Mar 6:46 After bidding them farewell, **He left for the mountain to pray.**

- The importance of prayer is striking here. Jesus is here to save people. People are His ministry. Yet he sends them away to be alone in prayer. Jesus couldn't do this ministry without prayer. Here, right in front of Him was so much ministry that he would be busy for weeks, yet He send them away.

Mar 6:47 When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land.

Mar 6:48 **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.**

- Although it seems to the disciples that they are without Jesus, Jesus really isn't far from them. He is watchful and can see them straining.
- In the Song of Moses, Moses gives a prophetic song about Israel's journey in the land. They will backslide, and be given over to other gods and nations as judgment against their sin. Yet God is a compassionate God who seeks to restore and deliver. In the song Moses says, "For the LORD will vindicate His people, And will have compassion on His servants, When He sees that {their} strength is gone, And there is none {remaining,} bond or free." Deut 32:36
- The "WIND WAS AGAINST THEM" is the training ground. The disciples are learning that the task ahead of them will not be without struggle. The 1<sup>st</sup> storm in Mark 4:35 Jesus was with them. That was the lesson "Storms 101" Jesus was with them in the storm. Here we see the disciple in an advanced studies class. They are straining, Wind against them, at 3:00 am and Jesus was not with them.
- This is what the disciples will encounter after Jesus' resurrection. They will become messengers with a simple message and be sent in the world where the winds will be against them. The anti-christ, man centered, politically correct, tolerant philosophies of the world system will be strong against them. And Jesus will seemingly no be with them. They will strain at the oars. They will strain to see progress.
  - William Wilberforce 1785 saved 1787 began abolitionist career

1807 bill passed to abolish slave trade 1833 Slavery abolished. 3 months later he died.

- HE INTENDED TO PASS BY THEM is an interesting statement. Was He just going to leave them in their situation, not caring? Does He leave us in our situation, not caring? Jesus has His disciples in school still. He is waiting for something from them.

## Deliverance

Mar 6:49 But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out;

- Psalm 34:6 "This poor man cried, and the LORD heard [him], and saved him out of all his troubles."
- Very interesting is the absence of Peter walking on the water in this account. Matthew records this in Matthew. Why? Perhaps Peter doesn't like recounting this account as either an account that sets him apart from the others in stepping out in faith or that it is a place of failure for him in that he didn't keep his eyes on Jesus and didn't recount that scene to Mark. Either way it is interesting considering Peter tries to keep Jesus the center of the story, not himself.

Mar 6:50 for 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."

Mar 6:51 Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished,

Mar 6:52 for they had not gained any insight from the {incident of} the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

- What were they to learn.
  - 1) Better to abide with Jesus than to run ahead of Him.
  - 2) To be compassionate rather than sympathetic.
  - 3) People are your ministry not your great service or talent.
  - 3) You can encounter a miracle and walk away with nothing more than a full belly.
  - 5) Something is always happening in your life.  
You are either gaining insight or your heart is hardening.
- We think highly of ourselves. We believe that if we were there at the feeding of the 5000 that we would be astonished with Jesus and would worship Him as the Messiah. No the truth is we would have been just like the disciples. We would have not gained any insight and our hearts would have been hardened. We too need to be humble and cry out.

## Full Circle

Mar 6:53 When they had crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored to the shore.

Mar 6:54 When they got out of the boat, immediately {the people} recognized Him,

Mar 6:55 and ran about that whole country and began to carry here and there on their pallets those who were sick, to the place they heard He was.

Mar 6:56 Wherever He entered villages, or cities, or countryside, they were laying the sick in the market places, and imploring Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were being cured.

- We have come full circle. The disciples are once again with the crowds. Again, the crowds are different than the disciples. The crowds are there to get something for themselves. The disciples are there to serve and to learn of Jesus. Jesus still sees those crowds as sheep w/o a shepherd.

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