

Mark Chapter 6:7-7:37

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Chapter 1

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Jesus Sends Out The Disciples 6:7-13

- Jesus calls His disciples and sends them out two by two—giving them authority to cast out demons.
- He told them not to take anything with them for the journey, and to stay in the same house until they leave a town.
- Also, if any place refuses to welcome them or listen to them, shake that dust from their feet as they leave to show that the people are left to their fate.
- So the disciples did as Jesus instructed by telling everyone to repent and turn to God—and they were able to cast out many demons and heal sicknesses.
- Commentary: Why did Jesus send the disciples out two by two?
- Why were they permitted from carrying anything but the bare necessities?
- What significance does staying in the same place and shaking off the dust from an unwelcoming place have?

Herod And John The Baptist 6:14- 29

- This section tells the story of the death of John the Baptist at the hands of Herod.
- Herod heard about Jesus, and John the Baptist was brought to mind.
- Herod imprisoned John because Herod married his brother's wife-- Herodias and John said that it was against God's law—and she did not like this.
- So she had a grudge against John—but Herod did not want to do it—because he respected John and protected him.
- So Herodias tricked Herod into promising anything that she wanted—and she asked for John's head—and Herod beheaded him.
- Commentary: What lessons can be learned from this story?

Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand 6:30-44

- Jesus and His disciples went off to a quiet place, but the people would not leave them.
- Jesus began to teach them—even though He was tired—out of compassion.
- Later, the disciples asked Jesus to send the people away—because they needed to find something to eat—and Jesus told them to feed the people.
- The disciples said that they did not have enough to feed the people and Jesus told them to use what they had.
- They had five loaves of bread and two fish and Jesus told them to divide the people into groups.
- Jesus then looked to God in heaven, blessed the food, and gave it to everyone—and everyone ate as much as they wanted and they even had leftovers.
- Commentary: We spend so much time focusing on what we don't have—instead of asking God to bless what we already have.
- And, as God blesses what we already have—we will see that God always gives us more than enough.
- Yet, why do we still always struggle to have to faith—especially when we think that we don't have the resources?

- After feeding the 5000, Jesus tells the disciples to get back in the boat and send the people home.
- Jesus goes to pray by Himself, and later that night the disciples are in a storm while Jesus was on land.
- Jesus then walks on the water, intending to walk past them, and they were terrified because they thought He was a ghost.
- Jesus told them to take courage because He was there—and then He climbed on the boat and the storm stopped.
- They were amazed at not only this miracle—but also the miracle of the loaves—their hearts were too hard to take it all in.
- When they landed on the other side, Jesus healed all manner of sick—everyone that was in need.
- Commentary: Jesus has fed 5000 with a lunch, He has walked on water, and now He heals all the sick that come to Him—never doubt what Jesus will do.

Jesus Walks On Water And Heals The Sick 6:45-56

Inner Purity 7:1-23

- Some religious leaders noticed that some of Jesus' disciples did not follow the ceremonial hand washing rituals and they questioned Jesus about it.
- Jesus called them hypocrites—because they have substituted God's law for their own tradition.
- Jesus then gives an example of their tradition being greater than God's law, and states that it is not what goes into our bodies that defile us—but what comes from our hearts.
- The disciples did not understand, and Jesus tells them that nothing that goes into our bodies can defile us—only what comes from inside of us—and Jesus lists the evil thoughts and sins that defile us.
- Commentary: Have we placed our tradition over God's law—and if so, how?
- While traditions are important, we must avoid traditionalism. How do you see the difference?
- Never forget—our hearts determine our direction.

The Faith Of A Gentile Woman 7:24-30

- Jesus left the region and did not want anyone to know where He was staying—but He couldn't keep it a secret.
- A woman came to Him, fell at His feet, and begged that He cast out a demon that had possessed her daughter.
- She was a Gentile—and Jesus told her that first He should feed the Jews—and asks her if it was right to take care of His own first—referencing taking food from children to feed dogs.
- She responded by stating that while that is true, the dogs are still blessed by the scraps from the table.
- He told her that her answer was a good one—telling her that the demon had been cast out from her daughter—and she can now return home—and when she got back the demon was gone.
- Commentary: Jesus tests the woman's faith with His response—and she passes the test. Do we have the faith to persevere and keep trusting God—even when the answer does not look like a yes?
- And, how do we do it?

Jesus Heals A Deaf Man 7:31-37

- A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to Jesus and the people begged for Jesus to heal him.
- Jesus led the man away from the crowd and put His fingers into the man's ears. Then Jesus spit on His fingers and touched the man's tongue.
- Jesus looked to heaven and said, Ephphatha –which means be opened.
- Instantly the man could hear and speak plainly.
- Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone—but the more that He said this, the more they talked about Him—saying that everything He does is wonderful.
- **Commentary:** Here we have another example of Jesus doing the miraculous.
- And even though He told them not to say anything—the people could not keep it to themselves.
- We must follow suit and tell the world everything that Jesus has done, is doing, and will do for us all!