

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 21)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

### Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

### Introduction

When have you taken a vacation when you got away simply because you were exhausted? You needed a break from the normal grind of everyday life. Describe what was going on in your life at the time and why getting away was the most important thing to you.

### Digging In

**Question 1: Read Mark 6:30-44.** Jesus sees that his disciples were hungry and tired after doing different kinds of ministry. The disciples were fatigued and thought their solution was to take a break from ministry. But Jesus showed them they needed to spend time with Jesus to get actual rest. How often do you simply try to rest but you take a break from Jesus? You think you'll get rest away from spending time with Jesus rather than resting with Him.

**Question 2: Read Mark 6:35-37.** At this point the disciples were annoyed that the crowds were following them, and they were all very hungry. At this point they wanted to just focus on their own needs and were annoyed. But Jesus has them look beyond their own needs and has them see the people the way Jesus saw them. During being annoyed, Jesus had them see their chance to serve. How does this challenge you in the currently life circumstances you are in? How do you see Jesus challenging you to see people the same way He does with the people God has put in your life?

**Question 3: Read Mark 6:38.** This part of the passage is amazing because Jesus uses situations and people that are setup to fail (in human strength). The verse says there was only 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread, and Jesus asks the disciples to feed everyone. What an "impossible" situation! This passage shows us that what Jesus asks us to do will be impossible on our own strength, but not impossible for Him. How have you seen trusting in the Lord's strength do impossible things in your own life? God asks "unqualified and inadequate" people, His disciples, to carry out the ministry He provides the strength for! In what ways is Jesus asking you to do the same?

**Questions 4: Mark 6:40-42.** At the end of this story, Jesus takes the food that was provided to feed and satisfy all the people that were there. Verse 41 says, "He looked up to heaven and blessed, and broke the bread." The significance of this is important and goes far beyond simply feeding people's stomachs. At the end of Mark in chapter 14, Jesus is with his disciples before his crucifixion. **Mark 14:22** says that Jesus blessed and broke bread, and told them, "Take; this is my body." Jesus was showing them that eventually it was going to be His

body what was broken on our behalf. The miracle of feeding 5,000 was a foreshadowing of what He would eventually do on the cross. How do you apply Jesus' body being broken on your behalf? A miracle Jesus uses to fill the stomachs of people would eventually be the surrender of His own body to fill us with His Spirit through the cross.

### Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?