

Mark 6

Vs. 1-6 Jesus returns to his home town, Nazareth and teaches in his “home” synagogue.

The people are astonished at his wisdom but even so they still see the little boy from the neighborhood – whose family they knew well.

They took offense that someone of such humble and familiar beginnings should be teaching with such power.

Undeterred Jesus goes through the villages teaching.

Vs. 7-13 Jesus calls the disciples and sends them out 2 x2 to teach among the many villages. They will need to move quickly to reach so many folks and so Jesus says travel light. And oh, by the way – take the first offer of hospitality and don't try to wait for a better offer. Mark insists kingdom living is about community not competition.

Vs14-15 Herod Antipas heard about Jesus because the people were speculating on who Jesus was – a prophet? John the Baptist resurrected?

Vs. 16-29 Herod's guilt makes him think Jesus has to be John come back for retribution.

Herod's comment allows Mark to tell the story of the death of John

Though the text calls Herod king, he was in fact a tetrarch – completely under the thumb of Rome. Acting the Big shot Herod throws a lavish birthday party and paints himself in a corner by showing off. His showing off results in the death of one Herod reluctantly listened to.

Vs 30-32 the apostles return, telling Jesus they had cast out demons, preached repentance and cured the sick. They are tired, rained so Jesus takes them to a place to rest but once again the people show up.

Jesus taught the crowd until late in the day

Vs 33-44 Jesus feeds the 5000

This miracle story is the only one recorded in all four gospels. Perhaps the gospel writers included it because of its Exodus overtones or it was simply such an amazing miracle that it stuck in people's minds.

The disciples respond in a disappointing way to Jesus call to feed the people. They've seen their share of miracles – why still doubt – of course they were broke! Mark does not tell us how Jesus performed this miracle.

Greek word for “bread” or “loaves” is always the one for bread.

Vs 45-56 Jesus sends the disciples back across the sea while he goes up a mountain to pray. Once more we have a storm at sea and disciples struggling against the forces of nature. Jesus sees them struggling and goes out to them – walks across the water. There is nothing to explain why Mark says he intended to pass them by!

The disciples think he is ghost. Jesus speaks to them to calm them – ego eimi – it is I

Literally “ I am”

The disciples are once more astounded – but not about walking on the sea – they still don't get the bread story!