

Sunday, July 31, 2011—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 6:32-56: Two Powerful Miracles

Mark 6:31-43

- *And they departed into a desert place by ship privately. 33) And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him. 34) And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.*
- Mark 6:32—remember that in verses 30-31 the apostles had returned from being sent forth by Christ in verses 7-13. Now that they have returned and given their report they depart with Christ into a desert place by ship.
- Mark 6:33-34—when the people saw Christ departing they went on ahead of him. The word “outwent” means to go before or to proceed.
 - Luke 1:17
 - II Corinthians 9:5—go before, beforehand, before
- So the crowd went out and began assembling before Jesus had arrived. Verse 34 makes this point clear when it says, “And Jesus, when he came out saw much people.”
- Upon seeing the multitude Jesus was moved with compassion and begins to teach them because they were “as sheep not having a shepherd.”
- Luke 9:10-11
- *35) And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed: 36) Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat. 37) He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat? 38) He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes.*
- Mark 6:35-36—when “the day was far spend” or when evening had arrived the disciples advise Christ to send the crowds away into the surrounding villages to buy food because they had nothing to eat.
 - Luke 9:12
 - Matthew 14:15

- Mark 6:37—Jesus answers the Apostles question by instructing them to give the people something to eat. The Apostles then respond by asking if they should go and purchase bread from them to eat.
- The word translated “pennyworth” is an English translation of the Greek word *denarion*. A Roman silver coin in NT time. It was the principal silver coin of the Roman Empire. From the parable of the labourers in the vineyard, it would seem that a denarius was then the ordinary pay for a day's wages. (Mt. 20:2-13) The word is translated penny 9 times, pence 5 times, and pennyworth 2 times by the King James translators.
 - Matthew 18:28—pence
 - Mathew 20:2, 9, 10, 13—penny
- John 6:5-7—from John's Gospel we learn that two hundred pennyworth of bread was not even enough to feed the crowd that had gathered. This tells us that the Apostles' questioning of Christ in Mark 6:37 was meant to inform Christ that two hundred pennyworth would not purchase enough bread to feed the crowd.
- Mark 6:38—Jesus instructs the Apostles to go find out how many loaves of bread they have. After searching the crowd they report back to Christ that they have five loaves and two fish.
 - John 6:8-9—according to John it was Andrew who told Christ about a boy in the crowd that had five loaves of barley and two fish.
- ***39) And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. 40) And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. 41) And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. 42) And they did all eat, and were filled. 43) And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. 44) And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.***
- Mark 6:39-40—Jesus tells his dispels to have to people sit on the green grass in ranks or groups of fifty and one hundred.
- Mark 6:41-42—upon blessing the food Jesus divides it and distributes the food to the Apostles to pass out. Verse 42 says that the people ate until they were full.
- John 6:12—when the people where full Jesus has the disciples gather up the leftovers.
- Mark 6:43-44—12 baskets of leftovers were taken up after 5,000 people had eaten until they were full from five loaves of bread and two fish.
- Matthew 14:21—incates that the 5,000 number does not even include the women and children.

- John 6:14-15—this miracle convinces many of who Christ was to the point where they were ready to by force make him a king.
- This is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels.

Mark 6:45-52

- ***And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. 46) And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray. 47) And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.***
- Mark 6:45—straightway or immediately Jesus sends the 12 before him unto Bethsaida while he sent the people away.
- Mark 6:46—once again we see that Jesus took time to pray. We need to remember Paul’s instructions to the body of Christ to pray without ceasing.
 - I Thessalonians 5:17—pray without ceasing
 - Romans 12:12—continue instant in prayer
- Mark 6:47—because Jesus had stayed behind to pray the ship the disciples were in was in the middle of sea while Jesus was still on the land.
- ***48) And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them. 49) But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: 50) For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.***
- Mark 6:48—says that Jesus was walking upon sea about the fourth watch of the night.
 - Matthew 14:25
- Mark 13:34-37—sets forth the four watches of the night.
 - Even (6-9pm)
 - Mid-Night (10-12am)
 - Cockcrowing (1-3am)
 - Morning (4-6am)
- So when Jesus comes walking on the water during the 4th watch of the night it is morning i.e., day is just starting to break.

- Mark 6:48—please notice that Christ’s intention as He is walking on the water was to pass them by or meet up with them on shore. That is why in verse 45 He sent them “before unto Bethsaida.”
- Mark 6:49-50—that fact that they see him walking on the sea indicates that morning was beginning to break. It was only after they cried out in fear supposing He was a spirit that Christ spoke with them.
- Matthew 14:28-33—Matthew is the only Gospel writer to record Peter’s attempt to walk on water. Peter was not walking by faith before he stepped onto the water.
- ***51) And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. 52) For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.***
- Mark 6:51-52—when Christ entered into the ship the wind ceased and they were amazed beyond measure. Do you see how quickly these guys forgot about miracle of the loaves? There was time in this account where their hearts were actually hardened.
- John 6:15-21—the feeding of the five thousand and Jesus walking on the water are the fourth and fifth signs of the eight recorded in John’s gospel. These are the only two of the eight signs in John which appear in Matthew, Mark, or Luke. (Baker, 127-129)
- In both of these signs Christ as Creator is displayed. Only the creator could transform five small loaves and two fish into enough food to feed over five thousand people with twelve baskets leftover. Likewise, only the creator could have such powers over the forces of nature as to defy gravity by walking on water, calm the winds, and instantly cause to boat to have reached its destination. (Baker, 127-129)
- Through these signs, Christ is seen as the faithful Creator of Israel who will take them through their time of rejection and trouble, scattered among the nations, and bring them to their desired haven (the millennial rest). (Baker 129)
- II Corinthians 5:7—even when God was dealing with Israel according to signs and wonders they were consistently never enough for the people to whom they were given. As members of the Body of Christ we need to walk by faith in God’s written word to us through the message and ministry of the apostle Paul.