BRIARCLIFF CHURCH Small Group Study Guide: Mark Week of January 6 (Week 16) Mark 6:1-30



Sermon Overview

Throughout the history of redemption, we see God call and use people that we would not. Kings and rulers with (seemingly) enormous potential fall into obvious evil snares. Yet, the poor, socially marginalized have the faith of saints while maintaining divine humility. How does this make any sense?

The sixth chapter of Mark begins to show specific instances - in Nazareth, with friends and family, in making and being discipled, and in sacrificing all - that nothing is more important, liberating or fulfilling than recognizing Jesus as King and obeying him in all of life.

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Getting Started

1. Recall a time when disobedience to God has knowingly cost you joy in Christ. Where might you be walking in similar disobedience now and what joy might it be costing you?

Starting with God

2. In verses 2-3, why are the people in Jesus' hometown "offended" at Jesus? Why do they find it/him so hard to believe?

3. How is Jesus and his message still offensive in this way today?

4. In verses 5-6, why does Mark say he [Jesus] "could not do any miracles" (and yet tells us that he healed some people of sickness)?

5. What is Jesus preparing his followers for in verses 7-13? Are there principles behind these measures that can help us follow Christ today?

Living God's Word

6. Mark's account of John's death is the longest of any gospel. It also seems to be a digression. What do you think Mark is trying to tell us?

Prayer

Father God,

Thank you for the salvation you have made possible through Jesus. Please stir my heart to hunger to draw near to you through your word. Show me the freedom that comes from obedience and guide me to walk in it daily, in all-of-life.