

BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

Small Group Study Guide: Mark

Week of January 13th (Week 17)

Mark 6:31-44



Sermon Overview

Mark 6:31-44 shows us Jesus' miraculously feeding well over 5,000. Mark places this account on the heels of another banquet account – Herod's birthday party (6:21). This insightful juxtaposition shows us the fundamental differences in the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of man. Jesus' banquet is held not in a fortress or palace, but in the open air and rolling hills of Galilee, and the invitation is not restricted to any social or economic class. Jesus' banquet is provided to minister to the needs of people for which he has compassion (v. 34).

The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle performed by Jesus that appears in all of the four gospels. This account serves as a powerful reminder that discipleship always begins by traveling with and being in the presence of Jesus (3:14). Service for Jesus can only come after fellowship with Jesus.

[*Listen to Recent Sermons*](#)

[*Visit Mark Resource Page*](#)

Getting Started

1. If our discipleship *for* Jesus is fueled by our fellowship *with* Jesus, what changes might you make to be a better disciple and to make disciples?

Starting with God

2. In verses 35-37, the practical instincts of the disciples and the divine prerogatives and priorities of Jesus come to loggerheads. What does this small exchange in the story tell us about the nature of being a disciple? About trusting Jesus? About our priorities and concerns?

3. What does the feeding of the 5,000 teach us about Jesus, the nature of Jesus' person, and his work? (Hint: why does Mark call it a "remote place" twice when it is clear that there are towns to purchase food in relative proximity?)

Living God's Word

4. Reread Mark 6:41-43 a few times. How is the problem solved? What is the progression of events in vv. 41-43? How does this resolve to the story inform the way followers of Jesus see problems? Consider solutions? Maintain peace in life?

Prayer

Father God,

Thank you for the provision of Jesus. Please forgive me of the times I try to live life apart from Jesus to fulfill my needs by myself. Please give me a heart to start my days and live my life in your presence with your fellowship. Guide me to trust you even when it does not make sense to me that I may find joy in the glory of your name.

Amen.