

RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (FACILITATOR)

MARK CHAPTER 6

Discussion Starter

- Are there any commands of Jesus that you are aware of that you simply do not like to do/follow? If so, what are they and why don't you like doing them/following them?
- "I need a God who is bigger and more nimble and mysterious than what I could understand and contrive. Otherwise it can feel like I am worshipping nothing more than my own ability to understand the divine."
 - What do you think this quote means? Do you think that this quote is accurate when it comes to walking with Jesus?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Mark 6:1-56)

- Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

□ Mark 6:1-6

- If you didn't know and/or hadn't read this story about Jesus' welcoming back to His hometown, would you have assumed that it would have went like it did? Why or why not?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so just listen as the facilitator.
- Why did the people take offense at Jesus?
 - Because the Jews were expecting the promised Messiah to be a physical king who would overthrow the Roman government, Jesus didn't match who they thought He should and would be.
- Why do you think the text says that Jesus could do no mighty works there? How does this make sense, especially in light of the fact that He's Jesus and can do anything He wants?
 - The text isn't saying that Jesus was incapable of doing great things among them. Rather, people's faith and/or willingness or lack thereof to have faith seem very connected to Jesus' willingness to do incredible things among and within individuals.

□ Mark 6:7-13

- Why did Jesus tell the 12 to not take anything with them except their sandals?
 - While Jesus knew that the disciples were going to be equipped and trained through the different experiences they were going to have, He wanted to teach them what full and complete dependence on their Father was, not just in physical ways but also in the spiritual issues that they were going to encounter.
- What is the significance of verse 10, especially in light of verses 11-12?
 - Jesus viewed and views everyone as good candidates for the Gospel until they prove otherwise. The fact that Jesus told His

disciples to enter into the house and stay there until they left indicates that Jesus always wanted to give people opportunities until individuals no longer wanted anything to do with these opportunities. Today, we are called to look at every person in the same way that Jesus did and does. Every single person is a good candidate for the Gospel regardless of how we think they will respond, regardless of how rough around the edges they are, and regardless of what we think they will or won't bring to the table as a Christian.

□ Mark 6:14-29

- How would you describe the character of the following “players” in this text?
 - John the Baptist
 - Herod
 - Herodias
 - Herodias’ daughter
- With which one of the “players” in this text can you most closely identify and why?
 - These are opinion/perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Mark 6:30-44

- Based upon what the text says about Jesus desiring to go to a desolate place because of all the people that were coming to Him and then not being able to rest because the people had already beat Him to the place He was going, how might Jesus have felt?
 - Jesus undoubtedly was exhausted. He may have been feeling and experiencing a number of other emotions but the text definitely infers that He wanted a rest, a break, time by Himself, etc. It is

important to note that the 5,000 number probably didn't include women and children so the actual number may have been double or even triple the 5,000.

- Why is how Jesus responded to the people in verse 34 significant?
 - Jesus didn't respond to the people from how He felt but rather responded to the people out of who He was. He truly saw the people and His heart was moved to action.
- What lessons do you think Jesus disciples learned through the feeding of the 5,000?
 - What lessons do you think you need to learn from the feeding of the 5,000?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Mark 6:45-52

- Why is Mark 6:45-47 extremely significant to all of Mark 6 and the entire book of Mark in general?
 - Jesus was incredibly busy and demands were constantly and consistently upon Him. The book of Mark is non-stop action with Jesus always at the center of this action. Yet, Jesus is extremely intentional about and fiercely protective of the time with His Father. Yes, He is interrupted and He takes full advantage of these beautiful interruptions but time with His Father was never on the back burner and ministry never takes the place of time with His Father.
- Why does verse 52 seem interesting and maybe even out of place to end the story of Jesus walking on the water?
 - The story of Jesus walking on the water obviously isn't about the feeding of the 5,000. However, verse 52 clarifies why perhaps the disciples had the reactions that they did to Jesus walking on the water.

- How many times have we seen Jesus do incredible and miraculous things in us and those around us and yet, our hearts become hardened to what He can do?

□ Mark 6:53-56

- How would you characterize the faith of the individuals who were bringing the sick people on their beds to Jesus?
 - This is an opinion/perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- In what ways would you say that you have the same type of faith that these individuals had?
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□ Personal Reflection & Application

- In what ways do you believe that you have boxed God in to how you think He should operate and function?
- How can you more effectively pay attention to who Jesus really is rather than who you desire Him to be?
- In what ways does your faith need to increase and grow over the next seven days?

□ Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?

- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

□ Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Mark 7) if you haven't already done so.

RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (STUDENT)

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Nadia Bolz-Weber
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