

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!
A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK BY BRENT AMATO
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LESSON NO.7-CHAPTER 6

- I. BEFORE WE GET GOING...
 - A. Why the study; why the title?
 1. For the seeker-Study Jesus because He is the “Gospel” (Mark 1:1, John 20:31)
 2. For the saint-Study Jesus to either fall in love with Him anew (John 21:15-17) or more deeply (Ephesians 3:14, 17-19)
 3. A “profitable pursuit” (II Timothy 3:16-17)
 4. Life is a race to be run and won (I Corinthians 9:24, Phil. 3:14)
 - B. “Go”
 1. “The Gospel of Mark has well been called a moving picture of the ministry of Jesus...The Gospel of action...Rapidity of action is its main characteristic...It gives us the works, rather than the words of Jesus.” (Earle)...While only 18 of the 70 parables of Jesus are in the Gospel of Mark, over half of the 35 recorded miracles of Jesus are in Mark’s Gospel. (Mark 16:20)
 2. Key word: “Immediately” (used 41 times; ie 1:10, 12, 18, 20, 21, 28, 29, 42, 43)-For example, “Mark seems to have been impressed by the swiftness with which the Lord’s commands were obeyed. He spoke! It was done!” (Phillips) (ie, 1:42)
 3. “I read in a book where a man called Christ went about doing good. It is very disconcerting to me that I am so easily satisfied with just going about.” (Anonymous)
 - C. Some background on the Book
 1. Its purpose-Proclaim Christ the Son of God sent to save (Mark 1:1, 11; 3:11; 5:7; 9:7; 12:1-11; 13:32; 14:61-62; 15:39) and the Servant sent to serve (Mark 10:45), whose power was manifested in His service through a series of victorious conflicts
 2. Key themes
 - a. Who?
 - (1). Who Jesus is (Mark 9:7, 15:39)
 - (2). Who we should be (Mark 16:14, 13:33-37)
 - b. What?
 - (1). What Jesus did (Mark 1:35, 6:45-51) and What we should do (Mark 10:21, 12:28-31)
 - (2). What Jesus taught (Mark 4:2-8, 13-20; 11:22-24) and What we should learn (Mark 4:9, 7:14, 16-18a)
 - c. Transformation (Ashey)
 - (1). Believe what Jesus believed (with transformed minds)
 - (2). Live the way Jesus lived (with transformed character)

- (3). Love and care the way Jesus did (with transformed relationships)
- (4). Minister the way Jesus ministered (with transformed service)
- (5). Lead the way Jesus led (with transformed influence)

D. Key (memory?) verses (Psalm 1:2)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____

E. An outline (Wiersbe)

- 1. The presentation of the Servant (1:1-13)
- 2. The Servant's ministry in Galilee (1:14-9:50)
 - a. Period of popularity (1:14-6:29)
 - b. Period of withdrawal (6:30-9:32)
 - c. Period of completion (9:33-50)
- 3. The Servant's journey to Jerusalem (10)
- 4. The Servant's ministry in Jerusalem (11-16)
 - a. Public teaching and controversy (11:1-12:44)
 - b. Private teaching and ministry (13:1-14:31)
 - c. Arrest, trial and crucifixion (14:32-15:47)
 - d. Resurrection and ascension (16)

F. Resources-See Lesson No. 1

G. What's happening in Chapter 6?

- 1. Context: "Jesus is tremendously popular at this time. It is the peak of his ministry." (McGee/Phillips) (6:31, 33)
- 2. Action!
 - a. Teaching in His home town and elsewhere (6:1-6)
 - b. Ministry "field trips" (6:7-13, 30-32)
 - c. John the Baptist's death (6:14-29)
 - d. The feeding of the five thousand plus (6:33-44)
 - e. Another miraculous boat trip (6:45-52)
 - f. More healing miracles (6:53-56)
 - g. [Footnote: This is the second longest chapter in the Gospel of Mark. Mark follows his usual style of presenting the action in the ministry of Jesus with machine-gun-like rapidity.](McGee)]
- 3. Jesus was "a traveling man" (6:1, 6b, 32, 46, 48, 56)
 "As far as I can tell, Jesus was almost constantly on the road....Traveling was the story of His life! And traveling, of course, is the story of all our lives....All of us are wayfarers on the road from birth to death and beyond, and what we make of our lives depends in large part on the way we travel...."

I'm grateful to have the example of Jesus to follow when it comes to traveling life's highways. I'm convinced His life is the best travel guide we can have as we step out into the next year and beyond....Jesus traveled light. He modeled an easy simplicity, trusting God to supply His needs. His focus was on moving forward, not staying in one place and accumulating stuff. Jesus traveled steadfastly. Almost from the beginning, Jesus 'set His face' toward Jerusalem. He had a sense of mission about His life and a faithful desire to keep moving toward His destiny. Jesus traveled in love. Though mindful of where he was going, he was never afraid of a detour. He stopped often to heal the sick, bless the children, and answer the questions of honest seekers. Jesus asked for directions [in his travels]. He prayed not only when He came to a crossroads, but all the time. He lived in constant communion with His Father, seeking to align Himself with God's will. Jesus traveled joyfully...To me, it shines from every line of the Gospels. Jesus earthly ministry, His journey of life here on earth, carries with it an unmistakable aura of joy that shines from every step, even on the darkest roads. And that's what we all can have in our life-journeys as well. Jesus has already shown us the way. More important, He is the way. To follow Him is to journey in joy." (Kinkade)

4. The issue of the chapter is unbelief (Hebrews 3:12) (Wiersbe)
 - a. The unbelief of His acquaintances (6:1-6)
 - b. The unbelief of His enemies (6:7-29)
 - c. The unbelief of His Disciples (6:30-56)
5. Behind the action
 - a. "Come away...to a lonely place...and rest a while" (6:31-32)
 - b. Alone to pray (6:46-47)

II. TEACHING IN HIS HOME TOWN AND ELSEWHERE (6:1-6)

- A. While not His birthplace (Bethlehem) nor his ministry camp (Capernaum), the place with which he was identified (Matthew 2:23; Mark 1:24, 14:67)
- B. Flashback
 1. His mission (1:38)
 2. His rejection (Luke 4:16-30)
- C. The same question keeps surfacing: "Who is this guy?" (1:1, 11, 22, 27; 2:7, 12; 3:11, 22; 4:41; 5:7, 42; 6:2, 3, 14-16, 49)
- D. Jesus' attractive attributes
 1. Wisdom
 2. Performed miracles
- E. What about his family? (John 7:5, Acts 1:14)
- F. Could you "know" someone for 30 years and not really "know" him?
- G. Man's negative response to Jesus
 1. Eviction (Luke 4:16-30)
 2. Not take Him seriously (6:3, 4; Luke 4:24; John 4:44)

3. Offended by Him (6:3)-“Once a carpenter, always a carpenter!” (Phillips) [“They stumbled over Him.” Isaiah 8:14, Romans 9:32-33, I Peter 2:8 (Wiersbe)]
 4. Footnote: The hidden insult (6:3)
- H. Villages as opposed to Rome
- I. Teaching and training for the disciples (6:7-13)
- J. What Jesus marveled at? (6:6; 1:15; 2:5; 4:40; 5:34, 36)
1. Only twice did Jesus marvel-Matthew 8:10, Luke 7:9 (Wiersbe)
 2. “There could not have been many things at which He could marvel. There was nothing for Him to marvel at in the stars, as awesome as they are. He knew them all by number and by name (Psalm 147:4, Isaiah 40:26).” (Phillips)
 3. Consider their unbelief: “He had lived among them for thirty years. He had exhibited before them His perfect humanity. They had heard from all over Galilee stories of His deity and the outpouring of supernatural power in miracle after miracle. Many of them had seen some of these miracles for themselves. Yet, when He stood before them, ready and willing to demonstrate His deity in many mighty works, they stared Him down in cold, critical and caustic unbelief. He marveled at that fact....” (Phillips)
- K. The link between manifestations of God/ministry and faith (6:5)-“The only limitation to omnipotence is unbelief. Faith is the one requirement to release the power of God in salvation...Unbelief shuts off omnipotence. Unbelief insulates and isolates the power of God. It still does that today!” (McGee)
- III. MINISTRY “FIELD TRIPS” (6:7-13, 30-32; Matthew 10)
- A. Flashback (1:17, 3:13-15)
 - B. “While there had been a similar preaching tour in Galilee before (1:39), that had been in the company of Jesus; this was the first time that they had gone out alone, relying on His word.” (Cole)
 - C. “Send them out”
 1. “Apostleship”(6:30)-“to send someone with a special commission to represent another and to accomplish his work.” (Wiersbe)
 2. Authentication (II Corinthians 12:12)
 - D. Adequate for the calling (II Corinthians 3:5-6)
 - E. “The first great work of the Holy Spirit in a human heart is to produce conviction of sin. [John 16:5-11] As Jesus said, a man must know that he is sick before he will seek a doctor.” (Phillips)
 - F. “It is a serious matter...to reject the Lord’s ambassadors, more serious in God’s sight, in fact, than the heinous sins of Sodom.” (Phillips) (Matthew 10:14-15)
 - G. Ministry methodology
 1. In pairs (6:7, Luke 10:1)
 - a. Strategic (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
 - b. Effective witnesses (Deut. 17:6, 19:15; II Cor. 13:1)

- c. It would be interesting to know whom He chose to go with whom!" (Phillips)
 - 2. "Traveling light" (6:8-9)
 - a. The "weight" of the world (I John 2:15-16; II Timothy 4:10)
 - b. "This is to indicate the urgency and the lateness of the hour, the importance of their mission, and their total dependence upon God." (McGee)
 - c. [Footnote: Later the strategy changed (Luke 22:35-37) (People's Bible Commentary)]
 - 3. Appropriating the authority of their master (6:7 and 13)
 - 4. Preach ("proclaimed")(6:12)
 - 5. "Love them, but don't sweat them" (6:11) [Footnote: "It was customary for the Jews to shake the dust off their feet whenever they left Gentile territory (Luke 10:10-11, Acts 13:51), but for the Jews to do this to their fellow Jews would be something new." (Wiersbe)]
 - 6. "R & R"
 - a. God's example (Genesis 2:1-3)
 - b. "Sabbath"
 - 7. "R & R" with JC-"God is a great believer in holidays" (Phillips).
- IV. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S DEATH (6:14-29; Matthew 14:1-12)
 - A. Flashbacks (1:2-11, 14; Matthew 3; Luke 3:1-20; John 1:6-8, 15, 19-36)
 - B. His relationship to the Jews (common people/ religious leaders) (11:27-33); Herod (6:20) and Herodias (6:17-19)
 - C. What about these "Herods"?-This Herod (Herod Antipas), who was actually a "tetrarch and not a king, ruling over Galilee and Perea from 4 B.C. to 39 A.D., was the son of Herod the Great, who ruled at the time of Jesus' birth
 - D. Who was Herodius?-Daughter of Herod's half brother (thus his niece) who was married to another of his half brothers, Herod Philip
 - E. A "wicked couple" like Ahab and Jezebel (I Kings 18-21) who both deserted their spouses and remarried, in violation of the Law (Leviticus 18:16, 20:21) and who were publicly criticized by John the Baptist
 - F. Like mother, like daughter (6:24-25)-Consider her dance and her demand
 - G. Everyone keeps asking the same question: "Who is He?" (6:14-16; Luke 9:7-9)
 - H. The power of the conscience (6:14, 16)-"Conscience will often lie dormant, seemingly sound asleep. Then, suddenly...conscience is wide awake, baying at the door of memory, or growling angrily over some deed, long dead and buried but now horribly raised and crying out for vengeance....And now Herod trembled on his throne, his angry conscience snarling; his memory painting ghastly, guilty pictures; and his face white now with fear or red with shame....everywhere he looked, he saw the stern face of John....

Everywhere he went, he heard the accusing voice of John. He was haunted; he lived with a ghost. He was guilty. He lived with an accusing conscience” (Phillips)

- I. Beware! (Phillips)
 - 1. Royal parties (ie, see King Ahasuerus; King Belshazzar)
 - 2. Vows (Judges 11:3-40, Ecclesiastes 5:5)
- J. Who did the “king” take his “cues” from?
- K. “Remorse is not repentance” (Phillips) (6:26)
- L. What’s going through John the Baptist’s mind and heart? (John 3:30)
 - 1. Upon being thrown in prison? (6:17)
 - 2. Upon hearing the footsteps and seeing the executioner’s blade that fateful day?
 - 3. What’s the cost of Christianity-For one, it was unjust imprisonment and execution, dying before “his time” (age 33)
- M. One defeat in battle does not determine the outcome of the war. (Phillips)
- N. Footnotes
 - 1. For John’s disciples (Matthew 14:12, Acts 19:1-3) following in John’s “footstep” (John 3:30)
 - 2. For Herod
 - a. 36 A.D.-The messy war, precipitated by his scorned first wife and implemented by her father, in which he was soundly defeated
 - b. A trial (Luke 23:6-12)-“He answered him nothing.”
 - c. 39 A.D.-Denounced by his nephew (Herod Agrippa-Acts 12:1) to the Roman emperor, deposed and sent into exile (Wiersbe) (8:36)
 - 3. For you-When will be your next “strategic day”? (6:21) (“a line by us unseen which crosses every path; the hidden boundary between God’s mercy and His wrath.”-Shakespeare) and what will you do?
- V. THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND PLUS (6:33-44, Matthew 14:13-21, Luke 9:12-17, John 6:1-14)
 - A. Always a Shepherd for His sheep (6:34, Matt. 9:36, 10:6)
 - B. Always a Teacher for His students
 - 1. What do you think he taught them? (6:34)
 - 2. Another “Pop Quiz” (John 6:6) after training (6:7, 30)
 - C. Sometimes the disciples “were in the boat” (6:32) and sometimes they “missed the boat” (6:35-37)
 - 1. Was the “great multitude” (i) a hungry crowd without food or (ii) sheep without a shepherd? (Wiersbe)
 - 2. Were the circumstances (i) a problem or (ii) an opportunity to trust God and glorify His name? (Wiersbe)
 - 3. Was the strategy to act (i) on the basis of human wisdom (a case of simple mathematics) or (ii) by faith (looking to God for a miracle)? (Wiersbe)

4. Is the first step to (i) measure our resources (looking around) or (ii) determine God's will and trust Him to meet the need (looking up)? (Wiersbe)
 - D. Notice the detail in the narrative (the numbers tell it all)
 1. Five and two v. five thousand (6:38, Matthew 14:21)-The impossibility of the task
 2. Groups of hundreds and of fifties (6:39-40)-The Creator still creating order out of chaos (Cole)
 3. Twelve full baskets for twelve doubting disciples (People's Bible Commentary)
 - E. Encounters with Jesus always meet the need of the moment and fulfill-"fill" (6:42)-Note both the spiritual and physical needs of the people were met! (McGee)
 - F. "What have you got in your hand?" (John 6:9)
 - G. Good stewardship
 1. "Whatever we give Him, He can bless and multiply. We are not manufacturers; we are only distributors." (Wiersbe) (6:41)
 2. "The leftovers"-no waste! (6:43, John 6:12)
 - H. For every "Simon Peter", there needs to be an "Andrew" (John 6:8-9)
 - I. Compared with the other "banquet" in this chapter
 - J. Stay tuned for another "banquet" (8:1-9)
 - K. This "sign" was a basis for a sermon on the "bread of life" (John 6:22ff)-The signs were meant to draw us to the Giver, not the gift. (Wiersbe)
 - L. Footnote-The only miracle recorded in all four Gospels (Phillips)
- VI. ANOTHER MIRACULOUS BOAT TRIP (6:45-52, Matthew 14:22-33, John 6:15-21)
- A. There's that word again (6:45) and John is getting into the pace (6:21)
 - B. Why did Jesus send the multitude away (6:45)?- (John 6:14-15)
 - C. Why did Jesus send the disciples away (6:45)?
 - D. See Lesson No. 5 (4:35-41) about the storms of life-Note the tests keep coming and get harder!
 - E. From three gospels, how many miracles?
 - F. Peter's "walk" (Matthew 14:28-31)
 1. First of all, don't be too harsh with Peter-who else got out of the boat? (See also John 21:7-8)
 2. An issue of obedience
 3. An issue of perspective
 4. An issue of faith
 - G. The tragedy of lessons not learned (6:52)
 1. There will always be "pop quizzes"
 2. "Smallness of faith and hardness of heart are two constant sins of God's people." (Cole)
 - a. "Hardness of heart"
 - (i). "That lack of spiritual perceptivity, that lack of readiness to learn"(Cole)
 - (ii). "calloused, dull, void of understanding" (Phillips)

- (iii) “does not mean they rejected Christ or did not believe in Him as their Savior, but that they failed to grasp what He had done. Their hearts were not open to what Jesus was seeking to teach them.” (People’s Bible Commentary)
 - b. “Smallness of faith”-“A failure to consider God’s working in the past and to apply that knowledge of His nature to our present problems.”
- H. What about Jesus in this storm?
 - 1. He saw them in the storm (Distance and darkness are not impediments to God-Phillips) (Genesis 16:13)
 - 2. He came to them in the storm (But he is more into invitation than intrusion-Revelation 3:20, Mark 6:48, Luke 18:37-38, 24:28-29, Matthew 25:35, 43 Phillips)
 - 3. He spoke to them in the storm
 - a. Words to live by; words to memorize!
 - b. Words to their emotions (“Take courage”), to their mind (“It is I”) and to their will (“Do not be afraid”) (Phillips)
 - 4. He “got in the boat with them” in the storm
 - 5. He calmed the storm
- I. “God’s Hidden Purpose”-Chambers
- J. The results for the disciples (John 6:21, Matthew 14:33)
 - a. They got to their destination
 - b. They increased in their understanding of Jesus’ identity (1:1)
 - c. They worshipped Him
- VII. MORE HEALING MIRACLES (6:53-56, Matthew 14:34-36)
 - A. More of the same popularity and pace (6:54)
 - B. Flashbacks
 - 1. To the frenzy of healings (1:29-34)
 - 2. To that healing touch resulting from faith (3:9-10, 5:25-34)
 - 3. To the opposite effect resulting from faithlessness (6:5-6)
- VIII. WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING AT THIS POINT? (John 6:22-71)
- IX. BEHIND THE ACTION (6:31-32, 46-47)
 - A. “Come away... to a lonely place and rest a while...”
 - B. “...departed to the mountain to pray...alone” (“Although the Lord was tired after such a strenuous day, He did not allow that to interfere with His necessary quiet time alone with God.” Phillips)
- X. SO WHAT?
 - A. What did Jesus teach that you needed to learn?
 - B. What type of person do you need to become?
 - C. What do you need to do?
- XI. BIBLIOGRAPHY-SEE LESSON NO. 1