

JESUS

Worthy Of Worship

WEEK FOUR THE RESTORER

This week we see “Jesus the restorer” in Mark 6:6b – 6:52.

-Where do you read in Scripture below about Jesus the restorer?

-What was Jesus on a mission to restore?

-Where does the *Kingdom* fit into all of this?

Jot down your answers as you go and use them as prayer points this week.

WOW!

Today we carry on our Journey through Mark’s gospel account of our Lord Jesus. The Scripture below covers one of Jesus’ most important miracles, the feeding of the 5000 (it’s the only story in all four gospels, that’s how important it is!). Today’s reading also describes the dangerous position that prophets found themselves in first-century society; a foreshowing of what was to come for our Lord...



WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Use this reading time to really get to know Jesus the **God-man**. Try not to only focus on what he did and said, rather go a step further by searching out *who he was* because of his teachings and actions; see past the man and onto the glorious and worshipful Son!

The Scriptures below deviate from the preacher’s notes for this week (they reference last week’s Scriptures instead) but there is still plenty of *Jesus the restorer* to draw out of them.

There are so many levels of understanding to the feeding narratives described here: from the simple feeding of hunger to messianic allusions; all describe Jesus with restorative functions. Can you pick any out?

And what of poor John? His death is written to be so abrupt and final. Is this deliberate? Is there something about the need for only one *restorer* that’s important here (Mt 17:11)?

Adam Gidney

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

(Mk 6:6b – 6:52)

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony

against them.” They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Note – “Repentance” and “healing”, is Mark trying to make a deliberate point considering what is now to come in the narrative?

King Herod heard about this, for Jesus’ name had become well known. Some were saying, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.” Others said, “He is Elijah.” And still others claimed, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago.” But when Herod heard this, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!” For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him. Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, “Ask me for anything you want, and I’ll give it to you.” And he promised her with an oath, “Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.” She went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?” “The head of John the Baptist,” she answered. At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. On hearing of this, John’s disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Note – There is a juxtaposition going on between the above and below sections. What is Mark trying to tell us by it? What do you find amazing and restorative about the differences going on?

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” But he answered, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?” “How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.” When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.” Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, **he gave thanks and broke the loaves.**

STOP – This sounds familiar. What’s going on? What does it point towards?

Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. **They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.**

STOP – What did Mark mean by the above verse?

When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Prayer

Dear God,

When our minds are distracted and overwhelmed by our personal and societal circumstances, renew and restore our minds daily. During times when we cannot think clearly, strengthen and direct our minds to your Word for hope and encouragement. Help us to keep our minds focused on You. Restore mental clarity and balance when anxiety rises. Restore positive thoughts and affirmations in our minds so that we can be beacons of hope and love. Give us the courage and discipline to continually seek your Word to renew our minds.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen

Anon

Coming up after the Summer on 5 September

Jesus **REVEALER OF DIVINE AUTHORITY** | Mk 6:53 – 7:37 | Jesus revealing the Father, demonstrating divinity.



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