

THE PROVISION OF THE KING

The Gospel of Mark 6:7 - 6:52

Bible Study Tools

Unusual Details: Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, but he is also a very vivid storyteller. When he includes details, pay attention and ask yourself, WHY did he include this? As you look closely at the text, some details just jump out at you because they don't seem to fit. Highlight them. Roll them over in your mind. Many times those details are building toward an underlying theme in the text. It is hidden to us because we are casual readers

Do not miss the **Markan Sandwich** in this section! Take the time to compare and contrast the embedded story with the larger narrative. Again, always keep in mind what is going on at this point in the ministry of Jesus and what he is teaching his disciples.

The Feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle story repeated in all four Gospels. It is a very significant event and has many connections to the Old Testament - look for them

Questions to Consider

- Read the instructions that Jesus gave his disciples as he sent them out. What are the principles behind each instruction?
- Carefully note the rich detail of the story of Herod and the beheading of John: why does Mark include so much detail?
- Note the disciples return from their mission, How do you think they felt when they were unable to get time alone with Jesus to debrief their experiences?
- "...they were like sheep without a shepherd." This is a key statement in the text - take some time to research OT references to this exact statement and the general "shepherd image"
- Why did Jesus intend to "pass by" the disciples as he walked on the water? This statement has a significant OT connection.

Comments & Applications

Herod: Herod is a title that was passed down to a family of rulers. there are 4 different people who call themselves Herod in the Bible. This is Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great (who was king when Jesus was born)

Herodias: this is the grand daughter of Herod the Great. She married her uncle Philip, but when he didn't have any real power, she left him and married her other uncle, Herod Antipas, who ruled over the region of Galilee. Read about Herod's family

Don't forget to **compare and contrast** the stories that are joined by literary structure in the text - what do you see? How does it help you see the broader meaning the the text?

Their hearts were hardened: this phrase has been used before in Mark. Where and in relation to whom? Why is it so shocking. What does it mean for us?

