

# **Jesus Christ, the Son of God**

*Studies in the Gospel of Mark*

## **The Lesson of the Loaves**

**Lesson 9**

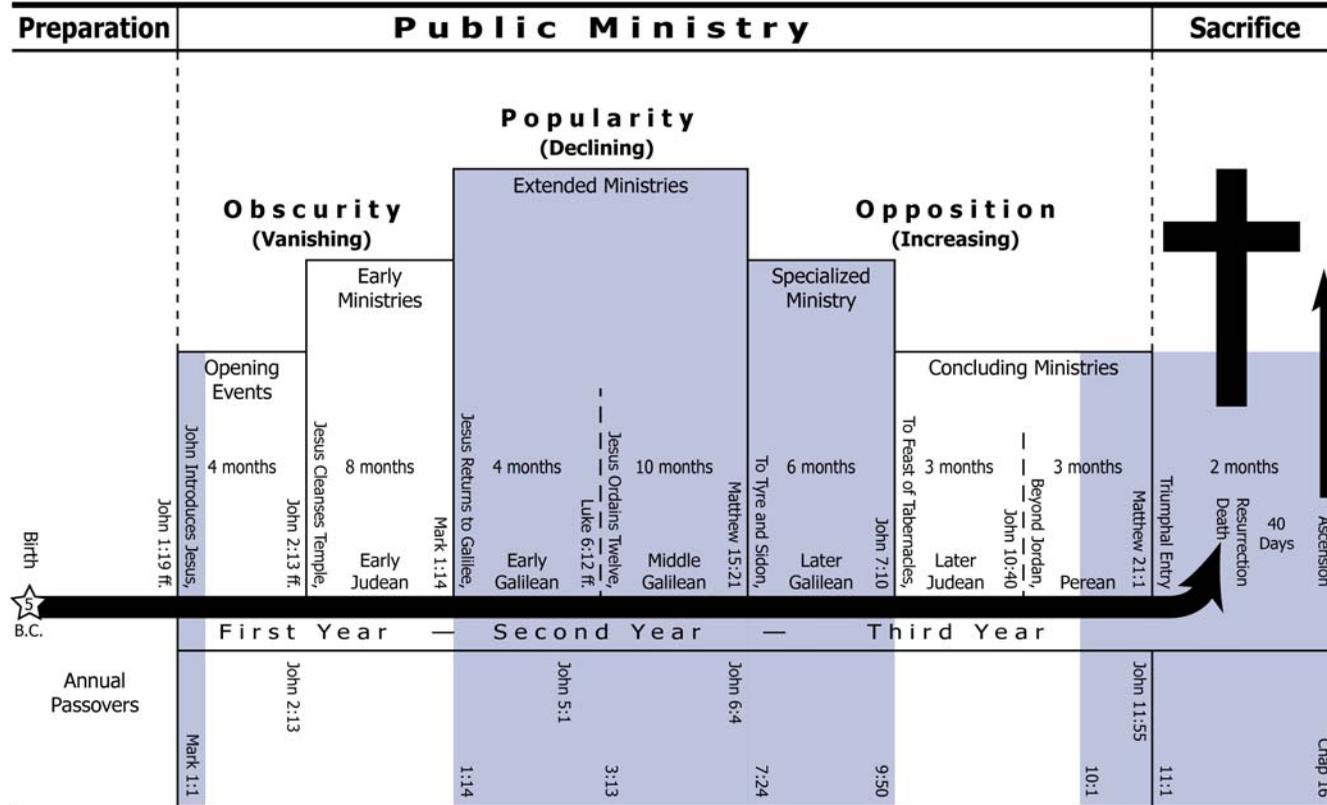
**Mark 6:30-56**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*

*February 28, 2021*

# The Life of Christ

Showing coverage by Mark (shaded)



# Training the Disciples (Mark 6)

- ▶ The Person and Work of Jesus – Christ: Son of God and Savior
- ▶ The future ministry – the circumstances and the mission
- ▶ A prophet without honor among his people (6:1-6)
- ▶ An internship for the disciples (6:7-13)
- ▶ The martyrdom of John the Baptist (6:14-29)
- ▶ The disciples report to Jesus (6:30-34)
- ▶ Jesus feeds 5,000+ (6:35-44)
- ▶ Jesus walks on water in the storm (6:45-52)
- ▶ Healing at Gennesaret (6:53-56)

# The Disciples Report to Jesus (6:30-32)

- ▶ The apostles gathered . . .
  - Title (apostles) - once in Matthew, Mark - 6 times in Luke - none in John
- ▶ They reported all they had done and taught
- ▶ A time for rest – R&R on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee
- ▶ . . . but it never happened

# Feeding the 5,000+ (6:33-44)

- ▶ Most important miracle apart from Jesus' resurrection – only miracle in all 4 Gospels
  - Matthew 14 – omits the disciples' mission and subsequent report
  - Luke 9:1-17 – omits family rejection, walking on water, and Gennesaret
  - John 6:1-58 – only includes the 2 miracles and Gennesaret; adds the discourse on bread
  - Mark 6 – adds “like sheep without a shepherd” and “green” grass
- ▶ Many followed along the shore and arrived before Jesus
- ▶ The gracious compassion of Jesus
- ▶ “Like sheep without a shepherd”
  - Numbers 27:17 – Moses' request for his successor – a shepherd (Psalm 23)
  - Ezekiel 34:1-6 – false shepherds of Israel – self serving; flock scattered
  - Ezekiel 34:11-16 – “Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out”
  - The Shepherd's response: “He taught them many things.”
- ▶ A most important event in the life of Christ
  - Cited 4 times; feeding 4,000 cited twice (Matthew 15; Mark 8)
  - Lead in to discourse on the Bread of Life in John

# Feeding the 5,000+ (6:33-44)

- ▶ Disciples bring up the issue of meal time
- ▶ Jesus' surprising response: "You give them to eat."
- ▶ The disciples see no options even with Jesus present
- ▶ The miracle
  - An act of creation – each loaf increased to at least 2,000 loaves
  - Left overs – 12 full baskets of loaves and fish
  - "They all ate and were satisfied."

# Jesus Walks on Water (6:45-52)

- ▶ Jesus went to pray
- ▶ The windstorm – a gift of God for them and us
- ▶ Disciples “harassed” in rowing
- ▶ Jesus walked on water as if He intended to pass by them (Job 9:8-11)
- ▶ “He came to them.”
- ▶ The disciples supposed it was a ghost and were terrified
- ▶ Jesus spoke: “Take courage. I AM. Do not be afraid.”
- ▶ He got into the boat and the wind stopped
- ▶ Disciples were “exceedingly, exceedingly astonished.”
- ▶ “They had not gained insight from the loaves” . . . hardened heart

# The Lesson of the Loaves

- ▶ What was the insight they lacked?
- ▶ Deuteronomy 8 – the provision of bread (manna) in the wilderness
  - Man does not live by bread alone, but what comes from the mouth of Yahweh (8:3)
  - The danger of satisfaction in the land leading to forget Yahweh (8:12-14)
  - The danger of forgetting the work of Yahweh to confirm His covenant
  - You will surely perish despite the bread – for neglect of the Word (8:20)
  - No insight into their spiritual need and the provision of God in Christ
- ▶ Mark 8:1-9, 17-21 – After feeding the 4,000
  - Did not understand Jesus was teaching them about true bread
  - 2 miracles of providing abundant bread showed bread is not the issue
- ▶ John 6:26-35 – Jesus is the Bread of Life (Eternal Life)
  - Work for food that does not perish (6:27)
  - Work = believing on Jesus Christ (6:29, 32)
  - Jesus is the Bread of Life (6:35)
- ▶ The need to see the spiritual aspect of the ministry

# How Would This Help in the Storm?

- ▶ The Good Shepherd seeks physical and spiritual blessing for the sheep
- ▶ The Good Shepherd is the Creator and Ruler of all things
- ▶ The Good Shepherd provides according to His wisdom and power
- ▶ The Good Shepherd was on course in the storm – right to them
- ▶ The storm was a spiritual event – solved only by trusting His Word

# Healing at Gennesaret (6:53-56)

- ▶ Came to land at Gennesaret – south of Capernaum on west shore
- ▶ The people sought Jesus for physical healing . . . and were satisfied
- ▶ They needed spiritual healing

# The Lesson of the Loaves

- ▶ The Good Shepherd leads us in the paths of righteousness (Psalm 23)
- ▶ The Good Shepherd is the sovereign of all creation
- ▶ The Good Shepherd uses creation to teach eternity
- ▶ We must seek and expect Him to bless in prosperity and adversity (Eccl 7:13-14)
- ▶ Temporal circumstances must not distract us from spiritual realities