

MARK

Mark 6:37-44

Wk 24

Pastor Chip

General:

- Pastor Chip referenced the movie *Angels in the Outfield* and its memorable line, "You gotta believe. It could happen." What's the difference between believing that something is possible and placing our trust in Jesus to accomplish what we cannot?
- How do you typically respond when God seems to be asking something of you that exceeds your own ability or resources?
- The disciples had just returned from a mission where they witnessed God's power at work. Why can it be so difficult to trust God with the challenges in front of us, even when we've already seen Him provide in the past?
- "He doesn't excuse them from the miracle." Why do you think God so often chooses to work through what we have available, even when it seems insufficient?
- The disciples had only five loaves and two fish, yet Mark records that there were 5,000 men in the crowd, with potentially many more people present. How does the magnitude of this miracle challenge the way we think about what Jesus can accomplish?
- Pastor Chip contrasted Herod's banquet earlier in Mark 6 with the banquet Jesus provides in the wilderness. What differences do you notice between these two gatherings, and what do they reveal about the kind of King Jesus is?
- Why do you think Jesus involved the disciples in providing for the crowd rather than simply performing the miracle without them?
- Verse 42 says that everyone ate and was satisfied. What does this moment reveal about the character and compassion of Jesus, beyond simply His power to perform miracles?

Take Home 1: Jesus does not eliminate the disciples responsibility (Mk. 6:37a)

- What's the difference between responsibly planning and preparing for something and relying so heavily on God to do the work?
- How easy is it to become a spectator of what God is doing through the church rather than an active participant in His mission? What might keep us from getting involved?
- What gifts, resources, or opportunities has God entrusted to you that you might be overlooking because they don't seem significant enough?
- Where might you be waiting for God to do something that He's actually inviting you to participate in? What would taking a faithful first step look like?

Take Home 2: We cannot miss all the literary themes and biblical connections

- PC listed several Biblical Themes from this passage (Jesus is Greater, Wilderness, Ps. 23) Which of these pictures of Jesus do you most need to be reminded of in your life right now, and why?
- Re-read 2 Ki. 4:42-44, where God provides food through the prophet Elisha. What similarities do you notice between these two miracles, and what is Mark revealing about Jesus by showing us that He is greater than Elisha?
- "The wilderness is not where God forgets us, it's where God feeds." Why are we often so eager to escape difficult or uncertain seasons? What might we miss about God's provision when our only focus is getting out?
- Earlier in the passage, Jesus sees the crowd as sheep without a shepherd. Now we see Him seating them on green grass and providing a meal, echoing Psalm 23. How does understanding Jesus as our Shepherd change the way you approach Him when you feel uncertain, overwhelmed, or in need?

Take Home 3: What kind of Kingdom are we building? (Mk. 6:40,42,44)

- Herod's banquet was marked by power, status, and ultimately death, while Jesus' banquet brought compassion, provision, and life. How do these two kingdoms challenge the way we tend to define success, power, and influence?
- Pastor Chip gave several examples of how Christians can unintentionally build Herod's kind of kingdom while claiming to follow Jesus. Which example challenged you most? Where might you recognize that same temptation in yourself?
- If someone examined the way you spend your time, use your resources, treat people, and pursue success, what evidence would they find of which Kingdom you're actually living for?
- Where is Jesus calling you to use what you've been given to serve others rather than simply build something for yourself? What could that look like this week?