MARK

Mark 6:53-56
Wk 26
Pastor Chip

General:

- Pastor Chip used the illustration of a funnel to explain how all 16 chapters of Mark's Gospel continually point us toward one central question: "Who is Jesus?" Based on everything we've studied so far, how has your understanding of who Jesus is grown or changed?
- Passages like Mark 6:53–56 can be easy to skim past because they seem less significant than the dramatic miracles or teachings around them. What might be missed when we only focus on the exciting or familiar passages of Scripture?
- Verse 54 says that the people immediately recognized Jesus. How can we become so accustomed to the things of God that we fail to recognize His presence or activity in our own lives?
- Pastor Chip pointed out that Gennesaret was a place of abundance, yet the people still had *need*. Why do you think it's possible to have so much externally (comfort, resources, success) and still experience deep spiritual need?
- Verse 56 says that everyone who touched Jesus' garment was made well. What does the eagerness of these people to reach Jesus reveal about their desperation for Him? How does that compare with the way we typically approach Jesus with our own needs?
- Pastor Chip ended with several diagnostic questions about our relationship with Jesus and His mission. Which question challenged or convicted you the most, and what might responding to that conviction look like in your life this week?

Take Home 1: The disciples made it to the other side *(Mk. 6:53)*

- How do you respond when following Jesus becomes more difficult than you expected?
- Where in your life does it feel like you're rowing against resistance right now? What is that experience revealing about your trust in God's faithfulness?
- Pastor Chip said, “There is no wind that can veto His Word, no wave that can cancel His will, and no darkness that can derail our destiny.” How can we distinguish between trusting what God has actually promised and assuming that He has promised the particular outcome we're hoping for?

Take Home 2: The other side is where our next assignment might be waiting *(Mk. 6:54)*

- Have you ever experienced an unexpected change of plans that God used to open an opportunity you wouldn't have otherwise encountered?
- When you experience setbacks or disappointment, what is your natural response? How might your perspective change if you began looking for opportunities to serve Jesus in those moments?
- How has a difficult or painful experience in your life given you a greater ability to understand, encourage, or minister to someone else?

Take Home 3: The crowd did not let someone else’s need remain someone else problem *(Mk. 6:55)*

- By actively bringing others to Jesus, the crowd looks more like followers of Jesus than the disciples in this moment. What does their response challenge about the way we approach our responsibility to help others encounter Jesus?
- Why is it often easier to assume, judge, or criticize someone else's problems than to personally become involved in helping them? Where might you recognize that tendency in yourself?
- Who is someone in your life whose needs you've become aware of but haven't yet acted upon? What might it look like to move beyond concern and actually help carry that burden?

Take Home 4: The smallest contact with Jesus can change our life forever *(Mk. 6:56)*

- Pastor Chip invited everyone to think about when Jesus touched their life. When you look back on your own story, what moments stand out as significant encounters with Jesus that changed the direction of your life?
- Pastor Chip said: “Nobody can take away your testimony.” Why is remembering what Jesus has already done in your life so important, especially during seasons when your faith feels challenged?
- How comfortable are you sharing your story of what Jesus has done in your life? Who might need to hear that story, and what keeps you from sharing it?

Take Home 5: Does the church and its effort look like the ministry of Jesus? *(Mk. 6:55)*

- What would it look like to be a church today to reflect the compassion and ministry of Jesus so clearly that the people outside genuinely wanted to be part of it?
- When someone who is hurting, skeptical, struggling, or far from God encounters your church, what do you hope they experience? What might need to change to better reflect the heart of Jesus?