

## TRUE FULFILLMENT!

Scripture used: [Mark 6:17–44 \(NRSV\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

Growing up in Silicon Valley, Pastor Hinman saw a place filled with opportunity, ambition, and achievement. Yet much of what our culture offers is centered on the self: wealth, status, pleasure, approval, and power. Jesus offers a different path. As He says in [John 6:48 \(NRSV\)](#), “I am the bread of life.” True fulfillment does not come from within ourselves. It comes through Jesus, who gives us what we most deeply need. The Gospel of Mark shows us this truth with two different feasts. One is Herod’s feast in his hall, filled with powerful people, entertainment, and luxury. The other is Jesus’ feast in a deserted place, where a tired Savior has compassion on a hungry crowd and gives them more than enough. Herod’s feast looks satisfying but ends in death and emptiness. Jesus’ feast looks ordinary but ends in fullness, truth, compassion, and abundance. The question for each of us is: which feast do we choose?

### KEY POINTS

1. **Herod’s feast offers the illusion of fulfillment.** Herod’s banquet had every appearance of success: wealth, power, status, pleasure, and approval. But beneath the surface was fear. Herod feared John the Baptist because John told the truth, and Herodias used that fear to demand John’s death. Herod was “deeply grieved,” but he still chose reputation over righteousness. No one left that feast fulfilled.
2. **Jesus is a different kind of King.** Mark presents Jesus as a King, but not like Herod. Jesus gathers a crowd, prepares a great meal, and displays divine power, yet He does it with compassion rather than pride. Even when He is tired and seeking rest with His disciples, He sees the needs of the crowd and responds. Jesus does not ask us to meet His needs. He gives us what we need most: truth, mercy, forgiveness, and life.
3. **True fulfillment comes from receiving Jesus.** At Jesus’ feast, everyone was fed and filled, with more left over than they had at the beginning. This is what Jesus does. He does not simply give us what we want; He gives us what we need. Jesus takes our place in death so we can receive His place in eternal life. As He says in [Mark 10:45 \(NRSV\)](#), the Son of Man came “to give his life a ransom for many.”
4. **We must learn to live more with Jesus than with Herod.** Each day, we move between the halls of Herod and the deserted places of Jesus. The halls of Herod are easy to enter because they appeal to our appetites. The deserted places of Jesus seem less impressive, but they are where we learn to trust Him, receive His truth, and find lasting fulfillment. We must build practices to spend more good time with Jesus than easy time with Herod.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - In Mark 6, both Herod and Jesus host a meal, but the outcomes couldn't be more different. What do these two feasts reveal about the kind of kingdom each leader represents? Which kingdom do your daily choices most often reflect?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Jesus declares in John 6:48, "I am the bread of life," and the feeding of the five thousand demonstrates that He alone truly satisfies. What "feasts" or sources of fulfillment are you most likely to turn to instead of Jesus when you're tired, anxious, or

dissatisfied? Where are you tempted to seek fulfillment through status, approval, pleasure, or control? What would it look like this week to choose the deserted place with Jesus over the halls of Herod?

- 3) **DO** - Pray [the prayer of Anselm](#) this week, asking God to reorder your desires toward Him. Then choose one regular practice—prayer, Scripture, worship, silence, or service—that helps you spend more good time with Jesus than easy time with Herod.