

# ***The Gospel of Mark: The Cost of Discipleship***

## **Lesson 7: February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Read Mark 6: 7-56**

**Sermon Reflection Question:** What captured your attention from Sunday's sermon?



### **OBSERVATION:**

1. What authority does Jesus give the Twelve, and what does this tell us about their mission and role? (Reference Mark 3: 14-15)
2. Describe how and why John the baptist is beheaded?
3. The crowds continued to seek Jesus and the disciples yet Jesus calls his disciples to rest. What does Jesus teach us about purposefully slowing down to rest?
4. How do the disciples react to Jesus' two miracles, feeding the 5,000 and walking on water. What does their reactions reveal about their understanding of Him at this point in their journey?
5. What does the response of the people at Gennesaret tell us about Jesus' reputation and the nature of His ministry?

### **INTERPRETATION:**

6. How do the actions and instructions given to the Twelve in Mark 6: 8-13 reflect the nature of discipleship and evangelism?
7. Jesus' compassion for the crowd, described as "sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6:34), echoes Ezekiel 34:11-16, where God promises to gather His scattered sheep. How does the feeding of the 5,000 reveal Jesus' role as the Good Shepherd?



**APPLICATION:**

8. Jesus sent the disciples out two by two modeling the importance of community and collaboration in serving others, what are the benefits and challenges of working in partnership? Where in your life could you benefit from partnering with someone else?
9. The disciples were sent to preach repentance, turning from sin and to God. How central is repentance to the Christian life and how can we foster a spirit of repentance in our hearts?
10. This passage reminds us that following Jesus can come at a cost. Are there areas in your life where you might be tempted to prioritize comfort or safety over obedience? What steps can you take to strengthen your commitment to Christ?
11. Herod's concern about public opinion seems to have played a significant role in his decision to execute John the Baptist. How does this illustrate the pressure we can feel to conform to societal expectations, even when they conflict with our conscience? How can we resist that pressure?
12. Before feeding the 5,000 Jesus told the disciples, "You give them something to eat." How can you join in the work of Jesus' kingdom through a step of obedience?
13. Jesus prioritized the needs of the crowd above his own by teaching and feeding them. What does this teach us about service and leadership? How can we put the needs of others before our own desires?