

# PART ONE: Be of Good Cheer, it is I

## Lesson 7

Mark 6:14-56

Read Mark 6:14-29.

The ministry of Jesus had become known throughout the region as news spread of His miracles and teachings and as his disciples traveled, preaching that people should repent. The news of Jesus had made its way all the way to Herod Antipas. Herod was convinced that Jesus was actually John the Baptist, risen from the dead.

1. Briefly describe how John the Baptist died.

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2. What ultimately landed John in Herod's prison? (v. 18)

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3. Read and record how Proverbs 27:6 may have applied to John's interaction with Herod and how it applies to your relationships.

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4. What did Herod know and recognize about John the Baptist? (v. 20)

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**Just** – upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God

**Holy** – in a moral sense, pure, sinless, upright

5. **THINK:** Why do you think it is important for Christians to be both holy and just?

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6. Herod's respect for John caused him to do what three things? (v. 20)

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7. Herod gladly listened to John; he even did some of the things John said he should do, but in the end, what was missing from Herod's approach to John's teachings that would have been life-changing?

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8. Describe each of Herod's decisions and explain how they led Herodias and Herod down the sinful path of murdering John.

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9. How can your own decisions create or reduce opportunities to sin?

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10. **THINK:** Despite feeling exceedingly sorry, why do you think Herod chose to murder an innocent man vs. refusing the girl's request?

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11. How can you prevent yourself from falling into the same trap Herod fell into?

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12. Herod had the incredible privilege of being face-to-face with the man tasked with preparing the way for the Messiah to come. He recognized John to be a holy and just man and gladly listened to what John had to say, yet he failed to apply the call for repentance and obedience to his own life. Consider your own life. How are you making sure to not only receive but also apply the Word of the Lord to your day-to-day life and decisions?

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Read Mark 6:30-44.

The apostles had returned from their missionary efforts (Mark 6:7-13).

13. What ministry lesson can be learned from the example of the apostles reporting back to Jesus on everything they had done and taught while they were on their mission? (Consider Hebrews 13:17 when answering.)

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14. Why were the apostles in need of rest? (v. 31b)

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15. Jesus made it clear that being by yourself in a deserted place was necessary for rest. Why do you think this is so important for effective rest?

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16. **THINK:** Why do you think most people find it so difficult to take time to rest?

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Jesus made a point to work hard and to give careful attention to the work He had been given to do. But, at the same time, He recognized the importance of taking time to rest, alone and without distraction, to refuel and refocus. Oftentimes in life and ministry, we, like the disciples, will find those periods of rest to be short; but when done correctly, even short periods of rest can be very effective and get us back to the work we are called to do in the name of Jesus.

17. Note the specific effort made by the multitude to be with Jesus. Consider where they went, what they left behind, and how they got there.

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18. Jesus, the disciples, and the multitude remained in this deserted place late into the day. Considering what is and isn't recorded in the passage, what appears to be the main concern for each of them? (v. 34-36)

Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_

Disciples: \_\_\_\_\_

Multitude: \_\_\_\_\_

While the crowd had demonstrated an element of rudeness in their following Jesus and the disciples when they were clearly trying to take a break, Jesus was moved with compassion and taught them many things. But, after a full day of teaching, there was the matter of their physical strength; they needed food.

19. What two possible solutions did the disciples see for this problem? (v. 36-37)

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20. Jesus chose neither of their proposed fixes. What does Jesus propose instead? (v.38)

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21. **THINK:** What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the disciples about the relationship and cooperation between Christ and His followers?

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22. **THINK:** What do you think Jesus was trying to teach everyone present through the miracle He performed in verses 41-44?

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Jesus' disciples had been gone, busy with their missionary work. John's disciples were no doubt confused and scared after his gruesome murder. Jesus, although, was still very much in control and as mighty and powerful as ever. He was the One Who would always be able to meet every one of their needs, no matter the circumstances.

Read Mark 6:45-52.

23. The disciples had set off for Bethsaida ahead of Jesus. What did Jesus choose to do with the time He had to Himself?

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Praying is a vital part of any believer's life. Scripture instructs us to pray without ceasing, and so oftentimes we find ourselves praying as we go about our daily activities. Lifting up prayers of praise while driving in our cars, calling out to God with requests for help while we shower, etc. are all good practices.

24. What other important elements does Jesus teach us about prayer in this example? (v. 46)

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As the disciples are in the boat, it is 3:00 AM, and they still have not reached the other side due to a contrary and headlong wind. While straining to row, they see what they assume must be a ghost walking on the water.

25. How do the disciples react when they realize that it is Jesus and the winds die down? (v. 51)

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26. Greatly amazed? Beyond measure? Hadn't He just fed 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish? What was the reason for their reaction according to verse 52?

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**Understood** – to put the perception with the thing perceived; to set or join together in the mind, i.e. to understand as the basis of their reasoning

**Hardened** – to grow hard or callous, become dull, lose the power of understanding

It is important for us to stop every day and take inventory of all the ways Jesus has provided and been there for us, or we too run the risk of taking Him and all He does for us for granted.

Read Mark 6:53-56.

27. What can you learn from how people in the land of Gennesaret responded to Jesus?

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28. Review verses 30-56 and record everything this section of Scripture tells you about the nature of Jesus.

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Jesus faced unbelief everywhere He went, in His hometown, among the religious and political leaders, and even among His disciples, who still failed to see Jesus as their source of provision and protection in any and all circumstances. Day-to-day life can slowly deposit calluses on our hearts that lead to unbelief, but if we trust in Him, He will never disappoint. He is our Shepherd... and we shall not want. (Psalms 23:1, 4)

## PART TWO: A Focused Look at the Compassion of Jesus

Mark 6:34

In Mark 6:30-32, we learn how tired Jesus and the disciples were. They were busy (there was hardly time to eat), and they were grieving (they just received word of the death of John the Baptist). Jesus wisely tells them all to come away to a deserted place, free of distractions, to rest.

29. Read Mark 6:33. If this were you, tired and sad, how would you respond to the multitude arriving and embarking upon you before you had a chance to get away?

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Read Mark 6:34.

30. How did Jesus respond?

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31. What was the reason for His compassion?

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Jesus saw their need for a shepherd and had compassion on them. He was weary and tired, yet His weariness didn't matter to Him. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. No matter His personal needs, He lays them down for His sheep.

Read John 10:11-14.

32. How does Jesus refer to Himself? (v.11a) \_\_\_\_\_

33. What does He do for the sheep? \_\_\_\_\_

34. Describe the hireling. (vs. 12-13)

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35. Describe the Good Shepherd. (v. 14)

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36. Read John 10:4 and describe the additional characteristics of the Good Shepherd.

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Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He lays His life down for His sheep, and the sheep know Him and follow Him, because they know His voice. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He went to the cross and laid His life down for us, and we will know Him and know His voice when we follow Him.

37. Read and record the promise in John 8:12.

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38. What does it mean to you that Jesus laid down His life for you? How do you follow Him?

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39. Read Psalm 23 and record all the beautiful reasons to follow Jesus.

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Jesus is the Good Shepherd. We are His sheep. We have the promise that He will lead us and protect us, and that we will dwell with Him all of our days. His love is overwhelming. In this love, He was able to set aside His need for rest and have compassion on the multitude – the people who needed a Shepherd. There are many examples of the compassion Jesus had for the people noted throughout the Gospels.

40. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about Jesus' compassion for those He encountered on earth.

Matthew 20:34

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Mark 1:41

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The dictionary definition of *compassion* is: a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.

As humans, it is hard to have compassion for others when we have our own needs to tend to. However, Jesus sets a beautiful example of how to deny ourselves and put others' needs before our own.

41. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about the compassion of our Lord.

Psalm 86:15

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Lamentations 3:22-23

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James 5:11

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42. Read the parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-24), and write down what you learn about the father's compassion. Then, write down how our Father's compassion has affected you - a sheep who was once lost.

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43. With Jesus as our example, we must show others compassion. Is this a struggle for you? Why or why not?

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44. Read Colossians 3:12 and write out your response to Jesus' compassion for you and how you can be compassionate toward others!

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