

## Chapter 6

<sup>1</sup>Jesus left there and came to his home town, and his disciples accompanied him. <sup>2</sup>When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard were amazed and asked, “How does he know these things? What is the source of his wisdom and the mighty works he performs? <sup>3</sup>Isn’t this fellow the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon? Whose sisters live here with us?” Therefore, they took offense at him.

<sup>4</sup>Jesus responded to them, “Where is a prophet less esteemed than in his own country, and among his relatives, and in his own home.” <sup>5</sup>So he was not able to do any miracles there except to lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them, <sup>6</sup>and he marveled because of their unbelief. So, he traveled around the villages teaching.

<sup>7</sup>Then he summoned the Twelve and sent them out in pairs, giving them authority over unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He instructed them to take nothing on the trip except a staff – no food, no knapsack, no money in their belt, <sup>9</sup>no extra clothes – but wear sandals.

<sup>10</sup>He also told them, “When you enter a house, lodge there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup>If a place does not receive you or listen to you, when you leave there shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

<sup>12</sup>So they went out and preached so that people might repent. <sup>13</sup>They also cast out many demons and were anointing many sick people with oil and healing them.

---

<sup>14</sup>Now King Herod heard about Jesus, for his name had become well known.

People were saying, “John the Baptizer has been raised from the dead and this is why these miraculous things are displayed through him.” <sup>15</sup>Others were saying, “He is Elijah.” Still others were saying, “He is a prophet like one of the prophets of old.”

<sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard, he said “John, whom I myself beheaded, has been raised.” <sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had sent authorities to seize John and bind him in prison. He did this because of Herodias whom he married – she was the wife of his brother Philip.

<sup>18</sup>For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to marry your brother’s wife.”

<sup>19</sup>So Herodias held a grudge against John and was determined to kill him, but was not able <sup>20</sup>because Herod respected John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and protected him. When he heard him speak, he was greatly perplexed, but liked to listen to him.

<sup>21</sup>Then an opportunity arose when Herod held a feast on his birthday for his nobles, military commanders, and the chief men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>For the daughter of Herodias herself entered and danced, pleasing Herod and those at the feast. The king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you.” <sup>23</sup>He promised her, “Whatever you ask me I will give you – up to half of my kingdom.”

<sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"

She answered, "The head of John the Baptizer."

<sup>25</sup>At once she returned to the king with the request, "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptizer right now on a platter."

<sup>26</sup>The king was overcome with sorrow, but because of his oaths and the guests he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>So immediately dispatching an executioner, the king commanded him to bring John's head. He departed and beheaded him in the prison <sup>28</sup>and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, who gave it to her mother.

<sup>29</sup>Now when John's disciples heard what had happened, they came and took his corpse and placed it in a grave.

---

<sup>30</sup>The apostles returned to Jesus and reported to him all the things they had done and taught.

<sup>31</sup>Then he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest awhile."

So many people were coming and going that they were not even able to find the time to eat. <sup>32</sup>So they went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>But the people saw them leaving and many recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

<sup>34</sup>As Jesus left the boat, he saw a huge crowd and had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

<sup>35</sup>It had now become late in the day, so his disciples came to him and said, "This place is desolate, and it is late in the day. <sup>36</sup>Send the people away so that they can buy themselves something to eat in the nearby fields and villages."

<sup>37</sup>But Jesus answered them, "You feed them."

They replied, "Even with 200 denarii we would not be able to go and buy enough bread to feed them."

<sup>38</sup>He asked them, "How much bread do you have? Go. See."

When they knew, they reported, "Five loaves of bread and two fish."

<sup>39</sup>Then he instructed the disciples to seat everyone in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>So they sat down in rows by hundreds and fifties.

<sup>41</sup>Taking the five loaves and two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave it to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish for everyone. <sup>42</sup>They all ate and were satisfied.

<sup>43</sup>Afterward the disciples gathered twelve baskets full of broken pieces of bread and fish.  
<sup>44</sup>The number of those that ate was 5000 men.

---

<sup>45</sup>Jesus immediately compelled his disciples to depart in the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he sent the crowd away. <sup>46</sup>After leaving the disciples, he went up into a mountain to pray.

<sup>47</sup>When evening had come, the boat was in the middle of the sea and Jesus was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup>He saw the disciples struggling to row because the wind was against them. So, toward morning (sometime between 3:00 and 6:00 A.M.) he came to them walking on the sea. He was about to pass them by, <sup>49</sup>but when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought that he was a ghost and screamed, <sup>50</sup>because they all saw him and were terrified.

But he immediately spoke to them and said, "Have courage. It is I. Do not be afraid."

<sup>51</sup>Then Jesus got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. They were completely astounded <sup>52</sup>for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

---

<sup>53</sup>After they had crossed over, they came to the shore at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup>When they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized Jesus. <sup>55</sup>They ran throughout that whole region and were carrying the sick on their beds to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup>And wherever he entered villages, towns, or rural areas, they were laying the sick in the marketplaces and begging him to let them touch even the hem of his garment. As many as touched it were healed.