

Opportunities Mark 6



Everyday each of us are presented with many opportunities. Some are greater opportunities than other, but none the less opportunities. Some opportunities will help us grow and stretch us in our faith as a Christ follower, while other opportunities will enhance us financially and still others might provide an escape out in nature.

Two years ago God opened up an opportunity to launch a new church aptly named Living Faith Fellowship. The opportunities abound for us as a new church in evangelism, discipleship, loving and caring for one another and those around us in our sphere of influence and in the World God has put us in.

Today we are studying in the Gospel of Mark and will be looking at chapter 6. A chapter filled with opportunities, six to be exact, that were presented to the people in general and the disciples in training particular. Some were missed opportunities, because of unbelief, and others greatly enjoyed because of the faith of the listeners. We are all faced with similar opportunities each day that are presented before us. Will we have the faith to accept them and grow in them and through them or will we miss them?

1. Mark 6:1-6, “Opportunity to know the Lord.” Luke 4:29 tells us that many in His hometown of Nazareth had tried to kill Jesus one year earlier. Yet He graciously returned and gave another opportunity to know Him. He came as a Rabbi, with His Disciples and taught these townspeople. Note the level they could not get past in knowing Him:

-Isn't this the carpenter, the common ordinary fellow?

-Isn't this Mary's son-(derogatory-note they left Joseph his earthly father out) in that

Culture you were never described as a son of the mother only.

-Aren't His siblings-James, Jude, Joseph and Simon?

They took offense that He was the One teaching them, they stumbled and abandoned Him. Jesus responded, “Familiarity breeds contempt.” The people of Nazareth were incapable of appreciating who Jesus was because, like Jesus' own family, they identified Him with themselves so closely instead of seeing Him for who He really is! Jesus did not perform miracles because of their lack of faith.

Friends, the opportunity to know Him is before us. Don't bring Him down to our level to seek to understand Him. Don't take Him for granted and become complacent. Don't treat our Lord like he is our good buddy, pal or any other loose term. He is God! By faith---Exalt Him---Hold Him in Awe and learn from Him!



2. Mark 6:7-13 “Opportunity to share His word.” The Disciples were called Christ’s ambassador’s. Commissioned and empowered to share the Word in a foreign land. He had told them earlier they would be “Fishers of men!” There is a sense of urgency about this work they were commissioned to do. Don’t do things to hinder instead go out 2 by 2 taking the hope of the Gospel to a lost and a dying World. Jesus empowered them to live by faith and gave them the tools necessary to represent Him in the world. The message they were to convey was clear, it was the good news, the gospel of Christ. These disciples must have absolute trust in God to supply their needs. Those who reject the message must answer for themselves. The disciples were to do their job in all faithfulness.

Like these early disciples we have an opportunity as ambassadors, empowered from on high to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. The greatest message ever. By faith in great love, speak the truth for His glory!

3. Mark 6:14-29, “Opportunity to repent of sin.” Herod Antipas was only the Tetrarch (ruler of the 4th part) not king. He liked to be called the king, as he wanted this position—pride. He was an adulterer along with Herodias his wife.

In vs. 14-16, these were the popular views of who Jesus was said to be:

-John the Baptist—raised from the dead—yet he did not perform miracles while he was

Alive.

-Elijah, anyone who knew the Old Testament thought it could only be Elijah, the coming

One. He was a great Old Testament prophet.

John Calvin stated, “We behold in John an illustrious example of that moral courage, which all pious teachers ought to possess, not to hesitate to incur the wrath of the great and powerful, as often as it is found necessary, for he, with whom there is acceptance of persons, does not honestly serve God.”

In comparison Herod was a very weak man. He thought he was finished with the righteous prophet John by beheading him. But the presence of Jesus reminded him of his sin and disobedience and his fears appeared again.

Interesting to note, that one year later, Luke tells us in his gospel in 23:6-12, when Jesus stood before this same Herod, Jesus refused to speak, maybe out of disgust for this person who would not confess and repent of his sin. Herod had the opportunity but chose the easy way out!

We have the same opportunities friends but like Herod often choose the easy way out and go on living in our sin.



4. Mark 6:30-44, “Opportunity to show compassion.” We all need to take time to rest. Vance Havner once said, “If you don’t come a part and rest awhile, you will come a part.” Note that Jesus felt compassion that quality who sees someone in need with a desire to help and then helps them.

Here is recorded another test for the Disciples, would they learn in the feeding of the 5,000. This miracle is recorded in all four gospels. Note the disciples solution to the problem of having food for the feeding of the 5000 was to go and buy it. Jesus solution was to “Come and see” what you have before. Always start with what you have before you and then ask God to give you more to honor His name!

The 200 denarii represented the pay of a common laborer earned in a period of 8 months. A days wage was 1 denarius. There were 5 loaves (small) and two fish.

Dr. Wiersbe has said, “the miracle of multiplication took place in the hands of Jesus—He was the manufacturer, the disciples were only the distributors.”

Friends we must ask, “how are we showing compassion to those God puts us around? There are people in need all around us, do we see them. Once we see them, use what you have to meet their needs and ask God to multiply it!

See that the people after this great miracle wanted to crown Him as king, ruler, but it was not yet time yet.

5. Mark 6:45-52, “The Opportunity to grow in faith.” This was a major test for the disciples. This time Jesus was not in the boat as they left shore. Had the disciples learned, where would their faith be?

Don’t miss what Jesus did in the hectic times of life---prayed! While praying He noticed His disciples straining at the oars, it was the 4th watch of the night, sometime between 3 and 6 AM. The watches went like this: 6-9 PM, 9-12 PM, 12-3 AM and 3-6 AM. This was the fourth watch.

The impression of the eye witness (Peter) was that Jesus’ was intending to pass by. The disciples missed, flunked yet again another test. They had not learned from the previous boat trip, nor the feeding of the 5000. The disciples problem much like ours today, “Who Christ is for our life?” When you face the storms of life who do you look to? Is Christ your all and in all? Is He sufficient for all your daily needs? When He is allowed to be, watch what He is able to do.

6. Mark 6:53-56, “Opportunity to receive the Lord’s help.” Jesus was there for all kinds of people to meet their needs graciously. In John 6:35, the very next day Jesus gave a sermon stating that He was the “Bread of Life,” and the crowd left Him.



Page 4

Friends, these people wanted their needs met to feel good, but they did not want this powerful truth that would change their lives. People want Jesus help and healing, but refuse to receive His forgiveness of sins and repent of the. They refuse to show compassion to others and to grow in faith that they might walk in the freedom of the victory that is ours in Christ.

We have many “Opportunities” in front of us pray:

1. That our faith would mature.
2. That our character and conduct would be Holy and blameless before Him.
3. That our love would increase and abound for all those God puts us around.