THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

- It is an \underline{early} gospel around +/- $\underline{AD50}$
- ☐ It is a *concise* gospel only *16* chapters
- □ It is a *fast-paced* gospel *"immediately"*
- ☐ It is a *vivid* gospel *miracles* and events
- ☐ It is an <u>evangelistic</u> gospel "Go into all the world and <u>preach the gospel</u>

WHY MARK?

- Usesus the <u>human</u>
- Desus the *heale*r
- Desus on the *move*
- Usesus the teacher, <u>disciple</u> maker

MARK LESSON 5: WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Or, are you hungry?

- 1. We all want something from God
- 2. What are you expecting from Him?
- 3. Is there <u>meaning</u> in what is going on in your life?

TEXT: MARK 6.30-44, NIV

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. 33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

³⁵ By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. ³⁶ Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

³⁷ But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

38 "How many lower do you have?" he

38 "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."

When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."

³⁹ Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.

⁴² They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³ and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴ The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

WHAT'S A MIRACLE?

"Omnipotence (all power) means power to do all that is intrinsically <u>possible</u>, not to do the intrinsically <u>impossible</u>. You may attribute miracles to Him, but not nonsense."

C.S. Lewis (1996). "Joyful Christian", p.37, Simon and Schuster

"Miracles are for beginners."

a miracle is simply a *less common* way of God's working in the world, seems to be preferable and more consistent with the biblical doctrine of God's providence... that it is a less common way of God's working, and that it is done so as to arouse people's surprise.

Surprised by the Power of the Spirit, by Jack Deere (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993), pp. 270-271

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM JESUS?

- Jesus recognized a very <u>real need:</u>
- Big crowd, no way to feed them all
- Jesus commands the disciples,
- "You give them something to eat."
- How would you have responded?
- And what if you were part of <u>the crowd?</u>

JOHN'S GOSPEL GIVES US A LITTLE MORE TO THE STORY . .

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

²⁶ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. 27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

- ²⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"
 - ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." . . .
- ³⁵ Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of <u>eternal</u> <u>life.</u> 69 We have come to <u>believe</u> and to <u>know</u> that you are the Holy One of God."

John 6, NIV

WHAT IF JESUS DOESN'T DELIVER?

- What happens to your faith relationship if you feel God hasn't answered your prayers?
- Will God abandon you?
- Will He stop loving you?

HEBREWS 13

⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you."[a]

⁶ So we say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will *not be afraid*. What can mere mortals do to me?"

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM JESUS?

- Jesus first priority is your <u>eternal soul</u>
- Jesus also wants you to know *His love*
- Miracles may happen, but the biggest miracle is the free gift of *eternal life!*
- Is Jesus your <u>Savior?</u>

HOW TO HAVE <u>ETERNAL LIFE</u>

- 1. Realize you <u>need help</u>
- 2. Ask for <u>forgiveness</u>
- 3. Receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior

2 PETER 3:18

¹⁸ But grow in the *grace* and *knowledge* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!

Amen.