



JESUS: The Servant of God

A verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark

The Gospel for Needy People

Mark 6:14-44

Message #16

Sermon given on March 8, 2026



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel for Needy People

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Mark 6**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Mark – **JESUS: The Servant of God**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

● **The Gospel for Needy People**

- One of the things we learn as we mature is the difference between wants and needs.
- I may want ice cream, but I don't need ice cream.
- Kelly can say she needs chocolate, but she knows it is not a need, it is what she wants.
- Spiritually, a similar process takes place.
- As we grow in our faith, our knowledge, belief, and understanding of God and His Word, we discover that some of the things we think we need are wants and not needs.
- It is important that we understand that because God has promised to meet our needs. **Philippians 4:19**
¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
- Notice, it doesn't say God will meet all our wants.
- There are things we want that we don't need.
- That's okay, as long as we don't expect God to meet those wants.
- He might do it because He is a loving Father. **Matthew 7:11**
¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!
- The Bible teaches that we should go to God with our needs.
- When Jesus was teaching about prayer, He said this. **Matthew 6:8**
⁸ For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.
- The Bible also teaches that we should be persistent in our prayers for the things we want.

- Because God is faithful, we can trust Him to meet our needs and because He is our loving Father, He may give us some of the things we don't need but want.
- In today's text we are going to look at several groups and their needs.
- We begin with the carnal needs of unbelievers.
- **Mark 6:14-16**
- Herod was the son of Herod the Great.
- Herod the Great was appointed king over Judea by the Romans.
- He was responsible for many building projects including expanding the Temple Mount.
- He was a very carnal, paranoid man.
- He killed his wife and some of his sons.
- After he died his kingdom was divided and one of his sons, named after him took over the area of Judea.
- The Herod in our text was just like his father.
- He was an unbeliever and so all his needs and wants were motivated by his carnal nature.
- The difference between true Christ-followers and unbelievers is the spirit within us.
- Before Christ, we were all spiritually dead.
- That means we were incapable of knowing or responding to God.
- That all changed when Jesus saved us. **Ephesians 2:4-5**
- ⁴**But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,**
- ⁵**even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)...**
- An unsaved person is controlled by their fleshly needs and passions.
- As believers, we are able to live above those things and as we mature our flesh has less control and our needs and wants become more holy.
- The flesh will always be a part of us, but the Holy Spirit will help us to control its influence.
- Herod has no such control.
- And because he is king, he is not very restrained when it comes to his passions.
- There is no limit to the vile, evil, and wicked things very powerful people are capable of.

- This account of Herod's treatment of John the Baptist is an example of that.
- **Mark 6:17-20**
- Herod divorced his wife because he wanted to marry his brother's wife.
- John told him that it was wicked and Herodias wanted John dead.
- Her chance came on Herod's birthday.
- **Mark 6:21-23**
- Everything about this is twisted and wicked.
- Herodias' daughter Salome is believed to be a teenager.
- Not only is she young, but she is also the daughter of a king.
- Her sensual dance inflamed the fleshly passions of the king, and he let his flesh lead him to do something he would regret.
- **Mark 6:24-29**
- The human heart is capable of unimaginable depths of depravity.
- We sometimes forget this but even believers are capable of things that will shock us.
- That is why it is so important for us to stay close to Jesus.
- The closer we walk with Jesus, the more the Holy Spirit helps us to win the battle over our flesh. **Galatians 5:16-17**
- **¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.**
- Herod reluctantly gives Salome what she asks for and beheads John.
- John's disciples find out and take John's body and bury it.
- The gospel of John tells us the John the Baptist's disciples come to tell Jesus what happened.
- The next account is Jesus' response to the news that his cousin John has been executed.
- **Mark 6:30-31**
- In our previous message we saw that Jesus had the disciples out two by two to take the gospel out.
- He gave them the power to cast out demons and heal the sick.
- Jesus determined that they needed to get away to rest.
- **Mark 6:32-34**

- Another sign of spiritual maturity is shown by how we handle interruptions or changes to our plan.
- One of the lessons I had to learn as a pastor is that my schedule is God's to control.
- People will regularly apologize for interrupting or 'bothering' me.
- I appreciate the sentiment, but you don't have to do that.
- I exist to serve God by serving His people.
- I am thankful when you allow me to do that.
- God's people need a shepherd and Jesus, the Good Shepherd, sees the multitudes and gives them what they need, He teaches them about the kingdom of God.
- Then another need is revealed.
- **Mark 6:35-37**
- Jesus already knew what He was going to do when He told the disciples to feed the multitudes.
- A denarius was the equivalent of one year's wage for a laborer.
- Jesus asked them to do something that was impossible for them but not for God.
- We must strive to not limit God by what we can do.
- **Mark 6:38-44**
- Jesus takes five loaves and two fish and miraculously multiplies it to feed 5,000 men plus women and children.
- He just kept reaching into the basket and pulling out loaves and fishes.
- Jesus gave the loaves and fishes to the disciples, and they passed them out to the people.
- The leftovers filled twelve baskets.
- Jesus knows what we need.
- Jesus led the disciples out to a deserted place so they could rest.
- The needs of the multitudes interrupted that rest and instead of resting Jesus and the disciples are feeding the multitudes.
- Jesus is still meeting the needs of the multitudes the same way.
- He gives what the multitudes need to those who have chosen to follow Him.
- That is not just the pastors and elders.

- Every person who has given their life to Christ is called to serve God in some way.
 - We don't do that just in the church, we do it everywhere we find ourselves.
 - The simplest acts of love, generosity, or service are an expression of our service to God. **Matthew 10:42**
- ⁴² **And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.**
- I think we sometimes look at the world wrong.
 - It makes sense because we look at and see people doing terrible things to other people.
 - We might lose sight of the fact that they are lost, unsaved people without the purifying influence of the Holy Spirit in their life.
 - Jesus looked at the multitudes and saw lost people who needed a shepherd.
 - He looked at them and what He felt was compassion.
 - Compassion led Him to tell them the truth about the kingdom of God and then that same compassion led Jesus to meet their physical need.
 - Every person who claims Christ as their Lord and Savior has a role to play in bringing others into the presence of their Good Shepherd Jesus.
 - This is not meant to be convicting; it is meant to be an invitation to join with Jesus and do the greatest thing you could ever do in your life.
 - Try to imagine the disciples in our account this morning.
 - They come to this deserted place to rest.
 - Instead of resting, they are given the task of feeding the multitudes through the miraculous multiplication of the loaves and fishes.
 - Jesus is manifesting the awesome creative power of God.
 - Not only are they witnessing it, but they are also participating in it.
 - There are no words to describe what that feels like.
 - I have served God for a long time and there have been many times when I was physically too tired to serve.
 - By faith, I chose to respond and serve God.

- The Holy Spirit always shows up and gives me more than I need to meet the needs of others.
- I walk away from those times with spiritual leftovers and those I served are filled with the presence and power of God.
- That is available to anyone who chooses to serve God.
- We are going to do Communion this morning to remember how Jesus met the greatest need each of us had.
- But we are also going to pray, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see the world as He does.
- Ask Him to stir up compassion in you and to use you as a conduit of His grace, love, and power into this needy world.
- **Pray – Communion - Last Song**