

Take ACTION

Weekly Sermon Insert and Devotional

LOVE • LEARN • SHARE • SERVE

Week of February 1st

Action Point: Mark 6: 1-29

LOVE God and One Another: This week Jesus sends out the Disciples and is given a less than warm welcome in his hometown.

LEARN From the Journey: Prayer for each day: *God, thank you for your Word. Help me to see new things today so I can love others in new ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

SHARE the Word of God: What would it look like to share the word in action and not “quotes?” Look for a passage this week that you can share that helps you better understand God’s love or God’s presence in your life.

Monday Read Mark 6:1-4. Jesus being in his “own country” or “hometown” demonstrates more about relationships than geography. Jesus is somewhere where people know his birth status. They know his place. When he states that people outside the town know him better and are a better judge of who he really is, he insults them. The church family is essential because it is supposed to be the place where we are not only welcome to transform or change, we are expected to do so.

Tuesday Read Mark 6:5-6. Jesus’ ability to perform miracles requires faith, which was apparent in a trustful loyalty toward God. In a nutshell, Jesus requires loyalty and commitment to the God of Israel, solidarity with others determined to follow the God of Israel. In this light, faith is a continual commitment to trust God. It isn’t a moment. It is a journey. We tend to look at every moment or situation and then decide about faith. Jesus teaches us, along with his hometown, that faith is meant to be a steady stream that flows through each incident or challenge.

Wednesday Read Mark 6:6. The land around the Mediterranean area was very fertile and primarily agricultural. 90% of the people lived in rural areas and villages based on family lines with a small service class of craftsmen, artisans, and religious leaders to serve the local people. The 10% in cities controlled the political, cultural, and religious decisions and it is their records that have been passed down to us. Except for Jerusalem, Jesus completely avoids other cities and remains in the rural locale populated by illiterate peasants. Are you a “country” or “city” person? Which place is easier to share your faith?

Thursday Read Mark 6:7-9. There isn’t a significant religious reason that Jesus sends the disciples out in pairs. It is simply that one did not travel alone in that day. To do so was to welcome an attack along the way (remember the parable of the Good Samaritan). Who is your spiritual “traveling buddy?” While we are all supposed to focus on personal growth, we do best when we have friends to walk with along the way.

Friday Read Mark 6:10-13. For this time and culture, hospitality is the process where a stranger (outsider) is taken under the protection of a host for a given time. What might hospitality look like at church where we see each guest as someone we covenant to bring “under our protection?”

Saturday Read Mark 6:14-29. It was a dishonor to be captivated by a dancing woman and even more deplorable to make a promise in front of guests and not keep it. Once Herod made the vow in the throws of passion, there was no other choice he could make. What are the modern versions that tempt us into overcommitting to things we know are wrong? Bad relationships? Chemical dependency? We might not ever have the power to behead a prophet, but we can surely cut down our good name and reputation with bad choices.

SERVE: Think again about hospitality. Who has your protection that comes under your roof? Try to extend hospitality, kindness, understanding, to someone not in your immediate circle of friends or family.