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| 1  Mark 6:33-56  08/12/23  “Is Jesus Enough?”  INTRO:  What comes to your mind when you think about the sufficiency of God?  1. Moses bringing whole nation out of Egypt  2. Gideon 32,000 down to 300 men.  -Unmistakable that it is God’s work/victory  3. Samson jawbone of donkey slew 1000 men  All these point to sufficiency of God  Today we will see ultimate example of sufficiency in discipleship demonstrated for us by Christ.  Last week we saw cost of discipleship, die to comforts and self. Following Jesus requires sacrifice. | 2  For some of you it may cost lives, others relationships, plundering of property  When we do ministry, we must do it in the sufficiency of Christ  The crowds are huge once again, crushing  Jesus knows His disciples need rest.  -Tells them to go 8 miles on foot around the lake to  meet them on the other side  I love you all, but…I need a vacation too  -Flying to Florida and whole church meets us there  by surprise, we wouldn’t be too thrilled  Disciples must have been exhausted and possibly irritated but Jesus had compassion on the crowds.  “Compassion”=splagnizomai lit. “from the gut”  Same word used in Matt. 18 to describe lord’s compassion on slave |
| 3  Why did Jesus feel this way?  -Sheep without a shepherd  Sheep can’t do anything by themselves  -Defenseless  -stupid  -wanderers and stubborn  Any wonder Scripture describes humans as sheep?  -On your own you will die  -You need constant protection and guidance  Num. 27:17, 1 Kings 22:17, 2 Chronicles 18:16, Ez. 34:5  All texts that describe Israel as sheep without a shepherd  It’s getting late and disciples worry about feeding crowds  -Tell Jesus to send them away to buy food | 4  Instead Jesus commands the impossible “You give them something to eat!”  Once again Jesus orchestrated this event purposely  Remember earlier the disciples were told not to bring money  Disciples’ snarky response “shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give them something to eat?”  -200 denarii=8 months wages  But disciples are not seeing it, they are blind  Been with Jesus on boat calming of wind and waves, yet they don’t see  They don’t have faith  Forgotten Ps. 34:10 “the young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing” |
| 5 Or have they forgotten 2 Kings 4, never ending oil for widow and her son?  5 loaves and 2 fish and sovereignly commands crowd to sit down orderly, who has the power to do that?  Bread more like crackers than loaf  More than 5000 men, more like 15,000-20,000 people  They all ate and were “satisfied” lit. “gorged”  -feast, buffet  -not a single one went hungry  -most delicious bread and fish they ever tasted  12 full baskets left over to symbolize the 12 apostles  and life giving message of salvation  Jesus has the power to decide exactly what is leftover. | 6  Miracle is one of two recorded in all 4 gospels  -1st is resurrection of Jesus  This one is a clear and undeniable demonstration of Jesus’ power  Some liberal scholars have tried to explain it away  -Jesus and disciples in hidden cave  Utter laughable nature of this precisely demonstrates that this is none other than a work of God  Sad reality most do not believe and follow Jesus  Jn. 6:15 crowds actually try to force Jesus to be their king!  Perfect political ruler and desired to overthrow Herod and Romans! |
| 7  Jn 6:26  “*Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal*.”  Crowds nor disciples understood that partial satisfaction pointed to full satisfaction in Christ  bread to bread of life  water to living water  V. 45 Jesus immediately sends disciples into boat ahead of him  Jesus prays (for disciples? For Himself to not be king?)  Jesus comes to disciples in middle of sea straining at their oars  They are tired, exhausted, frustrated, discouraged | 8  Where is Jesus when we need Him?  Jesus always seem to be a tad bit late  -Jesus unable or purposeful?  He intentionally let Jairus’ daughter die to test Jairus’ faith and to demonstrate His power in the midst of a hopeless circumstance  Jesus does not cater to anyone’s demands  What do you learn from this?  Jesus does not cater to anyone’s demands  Throughout Mark, we see crowds, pharisees, religious leaders try to push Jesus around and get him to be someone He isn’t  You don’t have the right to demand anything from God  It is different from “being confident” to ask anything from God based on His character |
| 9  Scary thing is someone demanding something from God  “God if you are real show yourself!”  “I’ll believe in this whole Christianity thing if God heals my dying son!”  “How could God let this happen to me!?”  First of all if God revealed His face to you, you will evaporate in heat faster than being evaporated in the center of an atomic bomb explosion  Second of all it is often those people who test God who will never believe no matter how much God shows Himself  They are already settled in their unbelief and seeing another miracle won’t change that | 10  Luke 16 Lazarus and rich man  Pleaded with Jesus to send some from the dead to warn his brothers of the agonies of hell  “even if someone rises from the dead he will not believe”  Ps. 115:3 “our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases”  God has every right to demand everything from us  Paul in arguing we have no basis to accuse God of wrongdoing says Rom. 11:35  “Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again?”  That is why when we pray we ask according to “God’s will”  Sometimes it’s a “yes, no or not yet” |
| 11  There might be difficult things that happen to you in life, but God always does what is right and good.  There is no unrighteousness or injustice with God. He always does good.  Coming back to V. 49  The disciples see Jesus and are petrified  “ghost”=” “fantasma”  Phanta, phantasm  Lord suspended gravity and walked  Job 9:8=He treads on the waters  “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid”  Jesus is Yahweh  “It is I”=I am he | 12  They must believe that He “is”  Heb. 11:6  *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”*  Jesus gets into the boat and wind stops  -Once again they are utter astonished”=blown  away  Another repeated demonstration of Jesus’ power  Utterly astonished=not a good thing  V. 52 “for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the leaves, but their heart was hardened.”  Disciples land at Gennesaret=did they row? No  Jn. 6:21 implies they zipped across in an instant  Made a quantum leap if you will |
| 13  V. 53 immediately crowds recognize Jesus and Jesus continues to heal sick and lame.  Unlike disciples who are hardened in their hearts there are many like the hemorrhaging woman who had faith in Jesus that even if they touched His cloak they would be healed  Title of sermon= “Is Jesus Enough?”  -I hope you see answer to question  Mark is trying to show you:  When everything seems to be in short supply, we have everything we need in Christ  When you are straining against the winds of life and it is beating down on you, Jesus is there to help you  Even if you lose everything, you have everything you need in Christ | 14  If Jesus always came at the snap of your fingers, where would your sense of sufficiency be? It would be in yourself, not in Jesus  Like Jesus who delayed in coming to disciples in boat  so God purposely ordains failures and hardships in your life so that you will not be sufficient in yourself but in God who lacks nothing.  What did God say to Paul in 2 Cor. 12:9 when Paul asked for the tent peg to be removed from his side?  “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”  Paul understood sufficiency of Christ formed conviction that he would not be abandoned by God |
| 15  “*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body*.”    Paul learned to be content in all circumstances:  Phil. 4:12-13  “*I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me*.”  Even Paul was saved to suffer in Acts 9:16  Jesus saved Paul for purpose of showing him the great things he must suffer for His name’s sake | 16  If you have believed in Jesus, you can say “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not lack anything”  But if you have not believed in Jesus, the Lord is not your shepherd.  He’s your enemy.  Everything opposite of Ps. 23 will be true of you  You have a different shepherd, and his name is in  “Sin will make you lack  Sin will make you lie down in a wasteland  Sin will lead you to violent and turbulent waters  Sin will destroy your soul  It will guide you in paths of wickedness for your name’s sake  When you walk through the valley of the shadow of death you will fear evil for there will be nobody with you  You will never find comfort  You will be prepared for slaughter on God’s holy table  You will be anointed with the flames of hell,  Your cup with overflow with the wine of God’s wrath |
| 17  Surely evil and hatred will follow you all the days of your life and you will dwell in the house of hell forever.  Don’t let that be true of you.  Forsake your sin and call out to the good shepherd and He will save your soul from hell  When you do that, God not only be for you and with you,  He will dwell inside of you  That is why He is called Immanuel= “God with us”  Let’s pray |  |