

THE GOSPEL OF MARK: STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

6, The Gospel conflict in this sinful world against unbelief, disbelief, false belief, and weak belief, but saving faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the victory that overcomes the world, Part 6E(5)

G.H. Elliott, Pastor

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Introduction: On a mountain stream when the stream bed takes a turn there is often a deeper side-pool where the waters slow down and collect before swirling back into the main current. The conclusion of Mark chapter 6:53-56 is like a deep side-pool where the current of thought slows down and collects the flowing themes and ideas of the previous chapters:

1:1-11, The Gospel Beginning is sourced in Jesus Christ being uniquely (the) Son of God,

1:14-20, The Gospel Claims This World for the Kingdom of God,

1:12-13, The Gospel Campaign: Jesus' assault mission against the world, the flesh, and the devil,

2, As the Gospel source being uniquely (the) Son of God, Jesus Christ the Son of Man has authority on earth,

3, As the Gospel source being uniquely (the) Son of God, Jesus Christ creates the New Covenant family of God by a supernatural salvation,

4, As the Gospel source being uniquely (the) Son of God, Jesus Christ is LORD, i.e. Mediator of the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven & Creator, i.e. Uncreated God,

5, As the Gospel source being uniquely (the) Son of God, Jesus Christ is LORD over the Living and the Dead Even Between this world and the other world,

6, The Gospel conflict in this sinful world against unbelief, disbelief, false beliefs, and weak belief, but saving faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the victory that over comes the world.

vv. 53-56, The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not neutralized by various types of unbelief, recognition of Jesus by His saving power as Prophet, Priest, and King is the faith that overcomes the world:

- The Anointed Prophet greater than Moses or Elijah in word and deeds revealed by symbolism/antitypes during His public ministry...
- The Anointed Priest mediating the spiritual life greater than human weaknesses and death by His life-giving presence greater than the manna in the wilderness or the showbread/bread of Presence in the Holy Place...
- The Anointed King different and greater with powers over the natural and super-natural worlds more so than any earthly king of human claims such as Herod or the peoples' popular desires to be like the worldly nations, i.e. King Saul (cf. John 6:15ff)...

**Christian ministers and believers should believe that the preaching of and witnessing to the New Covenant Gospel is God's ordained way of being in touch with Jesus Christ!*

v. 53, Once again traversing the Sea of Galilee (cf. Mk. 4 & 5, et al.) is not only a mode of transportation, but also serves to reveal Biblical symbolism like a translucent curtain/portal between worlds which Jesus passes back and forth between, cf. St. John 3:13//6:41-42...

- **“When they had crossed over...”**, in the immediate context remember on the Sea of Galilee/Gennesaret Jesus had once again identified Himself as God in word and power, as Creator and Savior, overcoming the disciples' superstitions and fears (cf. vv. 45-51).

**There is another world, a dimension of reality, a created realm of existence beyond this limited physical creation, i.e. the natural world and the supernatural world. To be spiritually healthy and sound in body, soul, and spirit we must accept the limited revelation of Holy Scripture about the natural and supernatural worlds and be bound by faith to God's authority. Do you believe Jesus is the God-Man, Who is uniquely the perfect revealed of God the Father, and do you trust Him as God about things seen and unseen?*

v. 54, Once again the boat, like the house in Capernaum, being providentially provided was a common fishing vessel but used by Jesus for His public ministry and many object lessons for the faith of the disciples and Christian believers.

- **“And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him”**, repeatedly the boat is referenced which was not only a mode of transportation, but also repeatedly used by Jesus like a sanctuary of the visible church often reconnecting Jesus publicly after an intense lesson of faith for the disciples...

**Christian ministers and believers should think of the Visible Church as a symbol and representative of the Invisible Church like an ark of safety in a sin flooded world (cf. 1 Peter 3:21-22, e.g. Baptism is administered in the Visible Church but the efficacy only comes by the Holy Spirit through the Church Invisible, cf. Westminster Confession of Faith chapter 28).*

vv. 55-56, Why did the people come to Jesus from the whole surrounding region bearing the sick and weak on cots begging to touch the hem/fringe/tassel of His cloak?

- The obvious answer is from the personal witnesses and reports to the good news about Jesus by those who believed, i.e. the lame man brought by friends to Jesus on a cot, Mk. 2, and the woman with a bleeding disease who touched the hem of Jesus' cloak, Mk. 5, plus many more, Mk. 1-6...

**Christian ministers and believers should not belittle or doubt the public and personal witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for continued recognition of the saving power of the Gospel over the world of unbelief.*

