



SPORTS IN FOCUS

THE SERVANT PREPARES THE TWELVE

Mark 6:1-56 • Lesson Five

READY

- How do you respond when you hear the word “ministry”?
- Do you think every Christian can or should have a ministry? Why or why not?

SET

Context of Mark 6:1-56

Until this stage of His ministry, Jesus had ministered alone. He had the companionship of the twelve disciples and the company of vast multitudes who followed wherever He went. But none of the twelve, and certainly none in the multitudes, participated in His ministry except as observers or recipients. Jesus began the preliminary stages of commissioning the twelve to join Him as fellow workers. For the balance of his earthly ministry these men would become the primary object of Jesus’ concern, instruction, and training because the establishing of His Church would soon fall squarely upon their shoulders.

Keys to Text

Ministry: A distinctive biblical idea that means “to serve” or “service.” Jesus equated service to God with service to others. When we minister to the needs of the hungry or the lonely, we actually minister to (serve) Christ (Matt. 25:31-46).

GO

Read Mark 6:1-56

1. What happened when Jesus returned to Nazareth, His hometown, and taught in the synagogue? What lessons did the disciples likely learn from this incident?
2. Based on the instructions Jesus gave, what lessons did He want His disciples to learn on their first ministry trip?
3. What can we learn about Herod Antipas from the description found in Mark 6?
4. What lessons should the disciples have learned about Jesus through His feeding of the five thousand? Through His walking on water?
5. What evidence do you see in this chapter that ministering to others can be stressful?
6. How does Jesus’ style of preparing people for ministry compare with the typical approaches of the modern-day church?
7. How can someone tell if he or she is over-involved in ministry?

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In a general sense every believer is commissioned by the Lord and is bound to obey His call to go and present Him to the world. Not every believer is called to be a preacher, teacher, pastor, or missionary; but every believer is called to be Christ’s witness to the world. Children of God do not determine their own destiny or mark out their own patterns or plans. They are under divine orders, and their supreme, overarching concern must be to submit to Christ in all things.

During 2008, Tim Tebow spent four weeks in the Philippines ministering to orphans rather than wasting his spring break like so many college students do. Search “Tim Tebow Man of God” on youtube.com and watch the ESPN report on Tim’s mission trip and discuss. Have you taken a short-term mission trip? If so, what did you learn from it?