

# How Do You Respond & What Do You See?

*Mark 4.35 – 6.29 & Mark 6.30 – 8.26*

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## Responding to the King & His Kingdom (Mark 4.35 – 6.29)

*Telos: This section shows the Kingdom in its King at work and the response of others as they see him work.*

### Introduction

- A. Remember what Jesus said about his kingdom/rule.
  
- B. Yet, as you see the differing responses to the kingdom you see that it does grow, but at other times you wonder if it will ever grow.

### I. See the Responses of People to the Kingdom (4.35 – 6.13)

- A. The disciples respond to Jesus with **TERROR** (4.35-41).

B. The demon-possessed man responded to Jesus with **LOVE** while his countrymen responded with **FEAR** (5.1-20).

C. A synagogue ruler and a woman with a bleeding problem both respond with **FAITH/BELIEF** (5.21-43).

D. The residents of Jesus' hometown are **OFFENDED** (6.1-6).

E. The disciples, going out with the message of the kingdom find **varying responses** (6.7-13).

## II. See the Fearful Response of a King (6.14-29)

A. This is an interesting section for Mark **seems** to interrupt this idea of responses with an historical note on the forerunner, John.

B. But the story here is triggered by the differing responses to Jesus noted above.

C. Why "John the Baptist raised from the dead?"

D. Herod's example gives us another response to the preaching of the Kingdom – **FEAR!**

## III. Consider Kingdom Advance & People's Response

A. Do these responses seem to contradict what Jesus has said?

B. We must pause & wonder at the magnificent work of God.

C. You must stake all that you are and do on that.

## Seeing Clearly (Mark 6.30 – 8.26)

*Telos: Here you find a whole string of miracles (with some teaching) but one theme: **Who can see clearly?***

### Introduction

- A. In most of these incidents, you find an element of the disciples not seeing clearly what Jesus is about, and that is the overarching telos.
- B. This is illustrated with the last miracle of the man who could not see clearly.
- C. Sometimes, we are like the disciples – we are so familiar with Jesus and thus cannot see him clearly for who he is.

### I. Feeding the 5000 (6.30-44)

- A. When Jesus asked that question, the disciples could have responded, "Jesus, you can feed all these people."
- B. But do not look down on the disciples

### II. Walking on the Water (6.45-56)

- A. Two miracles are contained within this one narrative.
- B. After praying, Jesus sees his disciples straining at the oars, and he heads out toward them on the water, *but they did not recognize him, thinking him a ghost.*

C. Notice the contrast – as soon as they land, “people recognize Jesus.”

D. Can you see that in your life?

### III. What Really Makes A Man Unclean? (7.1-23).

A. To the Pharisees, all the outward contacts, the outward ceremonies, the outward actions determines one’s acceptance with God.

- Has my observance of traditions caused me to stray from worshipping and obeying God?

B. Next Jesus tells his disciples that *any outward sin* always *has its roots in the HEART/INNER MAN*.

C. It is the HEART that *sets the stage for worship* & it is the HEART *that says the groundwork for sin*.

### IV. The Plea of the Syrophenician Woman (7.24-30)

A. Jesus tests her faith with the statement about the crumbs.

B. Here you find a woman who sees clearly – she knows that *Jesus is her only hope!!*

C. Do we see Jesus just as clearly?

### V. The Miracle of the Deaf-Mute (7.31-37).

A. Unlike the previous woman, these people do not see as clearly as they ought.

- B. But unlike the woman, these people see Jesus as the **miracle-worker**.
- C. Can we be awed by Jesus and not love him as we should?

## VI. The Feeding of the 4000 (8.1-21)

- A. The Pharisees demand a sign.
- B. Take a look at the disciples – they blow it again.
- C. We can see the revelation of Jesus' glory in all of Scripture, and yet we too, in the midst of all that revelation, **CAN MISS THE POINT/ NOT SEE THE SIGNIFICANCE.**

## VII. The Funny Miracle (8.22-26)

- A. This is a living object lesson concerning the disciples and their lack of sight.
- B. The disciples were not blind, but they, like this man, ***could not see clearly.***
- C. That is the way it will be with many with whom you minister.

## Conclusion

- A. The Kingdom of Christ advances, even with responses to it that you would think would oppose its growth.
- B. When that Kingdom and its King is put before people, as you minister to others, you will observe that not all see clearly its nature and its power.