

## Praying Mark 6

(Scriptures are ESV unless stated otherwise)

This is a resource to pray God's word with other leaders or for you individually. Jesus loves you and he wants to meet you, fill you with his Spirit afresh and lead you wherever you are as his disciple. He also wants to speak to us about what he could do if we allow him to be all of who he is and prayerfully understand our part in his work.

Read the Scriptures aloud. As you come to each set of questions take time to give all that you have answered to Jesus, listen to him, pray the Scriptures for yourself and each other and receive all that he wants to do in you. Then he may lead you to pray for your area, teams and churches. It will be too much to do prayerfully all at once so take it slowly, giving him time to speak and give you all of himself.

**1** He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. **2** And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? **3** Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. **4** And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." **5** And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. **6** And he marveled because of their unbelief.

- Is there any unbelief (in us, teams or the women) or lack of faith that is blocking the "mighty works" Jesus might want to do in your area? How does it show itself? (fear, lack of prayer, control, hoping in leaders?)

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. **7** Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. (NIV)

- Are we listening to Jesus calling us to himself as leaders? Where are we making time for him?
- Where are we lacking spiritual authority because we are trying to do the work ourselves without coming to him?
- Where do we need him to anoint us by his Spirit and give us spiritual authority? Where do we need to pray for him to drive out darkness, heal, speak truth and teach his word?
- In what ways do we need to listen to exactly how and to whom Jesus is sending us? Where are we trying to work it out by ourselves?

**8** These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. **9** Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. **10** Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. **11** And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." (NIV)

- Is there any way in which we are trying to control or expecting to plan as the world

- Is there any way in which we are trying to control or expecting to plan as the world would say is “normal”?
- Where is Jesus drawing us into a deeper trust and dependency on him rather than on resources or our own “comfortable” plans?

**12** So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. **13** And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

- Where do we need Jesus to increase our faith to pray and expect him to drive out evil? Heal? Speak truth?
- Where do we need him to enlarge our expectations that he can do these things for “many” through us and our prayers, rather than for a few?

**30** The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.

- Are we going back to Jesus constantly to talk with him about the ministry and praise him? As a team? As Individuals?

**31** And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. **32** And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.

- Where are we weary and where do we need Jesus to give us rest? Do we hear that his heart for us is rest?

**33** Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. **34** When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

- Who are “the crowds” where we are? Who does Jesus see are without him as shepherd and need teaching? Are we praying for them with his heart of compassion for them or are we trying to teach in our own strength and motivation?

**35** And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late.

**36** Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

**37** But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?”

- Are we looking at the needs through our own eyes and trying to meet them in our own wisdom and resources?

**38** And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.”

- How is Jesus inviting you to be part of what he is doing to feed and meet the needs of those in your area?

- How is Jesus inviting you to be part of what he is doing to feed and meet the needs of those in your area?
- Where might Jesus be asking us to “go and see,” to look beyond our own ideas for people or resources that he might use?

**39** Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. **40** So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties.

- Are we letting Jesus work in our groups so people can be fed? What would it mean to let him plan them?

**41** And taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. **42** And they all ate and were satisfied. **43** And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. **44** And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

- Are we giving every gift, strength, wisdom, time and resource and ourselves, to Jesus—for him to do the miracle—or are we trying to make it “enough” ourselves (trying to divide 5 loaves and 2 fish instead of giving it to Jesus)?
- What would it look like for us to come to him to be broken and blessed and made more in his mighty hands?
- Where is he wanting to satisfy the needs of our people extravagantly, giving more than enough? Can we believe him for this?

**45** Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. **46** And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. **47** And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. **48** And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them.

- Where do we need to believe that Jesus is praying for us and sees us struggling? Individually or as a team?

And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, **49** but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, **50** for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

- Is there anything that looks scary and unknown to us that might actually be Jesus?
- Where do we need him to speak into our fear and show us himself?

**51** And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, **52** for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

- Where does Jesus need to show you he is in the boat with you? Where do you feel like he is not there, individually? As a team?

- Where does Jesus need to show you he is in the boat with you? Where do you feel like he is not there, individually? As a team?
- What is the wind that you need Jesus to stop? What would it look like to let him get in the boat?

**53** When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. **54** And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him **55** and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. **56** And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

- Where do we need to ask Jesus for more faith to believe his healing and transformation for all?
- In what ways do we need this same urgency to pray and bring people to Jesus expecting him to work in them?
- How might he be asking us to “run about the whole region” finding people who need Jesus to meet them and touch them?