

# Discussion Guide

Week of January 20, 2013

Mark 6:30–44

## Passage Overview:

In Mark 6:14–29, Mark tells the story of a king throwing a party. In 6:30–44, he shows another king throwing a very different kind of party. Herod's party is a drunken and licentious occasion for the elite. Yet for all his political authority, Herod is weak. The party of Jesus included the poor. It is centered on God's word. And despite his apparent lack of political authority, Jesus has the power to provide for the crowd. The key is verse 34, in which Mark describes the compassion of Jesus on the crowd "because they were like sheep without a shepherd." Jesus is truly the great Shepherd-King who cares for and protects his people.

## Understanding God's Word—Read Mark 6:30–44.

- In vv30–34, how does Jesus demonstrate what a shepherd is? How does Jesus demonstrate what a shepherd does?
- How do we see Jesus illustrate the importance of (a) individual and community life, (b) meeting spiritual and physical needs, (c) resting and working, (d) truth and love?

## Living and Applying God's Word

- Compare the party that King Herod throws in vv14–29 with the "party" that Jesus throws in vv30–44. What do you learn from this comparison?
- In v34, Jesus pictures us as sheep and himself as a Shepherd.
  - What does it tell us about ourselves that he sees us as sheep?
  - What does it tell us about him that he sees himself as a shepherd?
  - How does **Isaiah 40:10–11** describe the relationship between Jesus the Shepherd and us the sheep?
- Read **Ezekiel 34:22–23**. David was a shepherd before he became king. Now God promises to shepherd his people through a new King David.
  - How does Jesus the Shepherd-King surpass David the Shepherd-King?
  - What is Mark showing us about the kingship of Jesus?
- What does the feeding of the 5,000 teach us about the nature of Jesus' person, and his work?

## Turning to God in Faith and Repentance

- Are there areas of your life where you are in danger of following Herod rather than Jesus? What do you need to change? Think about your ambitions, priorities, attitudes to serving others, and the way in which you treat God's Word.
- In v35–37, Jesus vividly shows the disciples that they are incapable of meeting the needs of others, but that he *is* capable. Why is it important that we realize that our resources can never meet the needs of the world, our city, our neighborhood, and our family? How do you react to this truth . . . indifference, hope, frustration?
- Jesus fed the crowd and they were satisfied (v42). What does it look like for a person to be satisfied in Jesus?

## Prayer:

Pray through Psalm 23. Pray also for Joey Ellis as he prepares for our upcoming missions conference. Pray for him and his family as they are currently on furlough and also for their team's work in their absence.

## Announcements

- Missions Prayer Night (Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m.)
- Missions Conference (Jan. 25–27) ([springer@insidecrosspointe.com](mailto:springer@insidecrosspointe.com))
- Water Baptism (Feb. 10) ([wayne@insidecrosspointe.com](mailto:wayne@insidecrosspointe.com))
- Starting Pointe (Feb. 22–24) ([robert@insidecrosspointe.com](mailto:robert@insidecrosspointe.com))