

Discussion Notes
May 18, 2014
Mark 6.30-44
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As we consider the story of the feeding of the 5,000, let's put aside our "children's story" perspective, and consider this as adults, as the story has important ramifications.

Mark records the story behind the previous passage for a reason. It is meant to contrast Herod's feast (Mark 6.14-29). The story is also an intentional fulfillment of Psalm 23.

Psalm 23

- Provision for the needy.
- The people sit on the green grass.
- There are twelve baskets left over, to symbolize God's call to and care for the twelve tribes of Israel.

Herod's Feast and Jesus' Feast

	Herod's Feast	Jesus's Feast
Setting	Palace	Desert
Occasion	Birthday Party	People are hungry
Purpose	Display of wealth and power (self-centeredness)	Meet people's needs (compassion)
Guests	People of Influence (invited guests)	Anyone (everyone is accepted)
Entertainment	Saucy Jig	Godly Teaching
What was revealed?	An unwise, puppet king	Jesus was God

What we end with is a picture of Herod's feast (deception, manipulation, death, bitterness), and Jesus' contrasting feast (life, joy, acceptance, provision). Jesus Kingdom and care looks different and better than what the world offers in it's brokenness.

Discussion Questions:

- What do you notice about the two feasts and what they say about the people who host them?
- What implications does this have for how we understand God's character?

- What implications does this have for how we relate to one another, and how what motivates us as we interact with our family/friends/non-belivers?