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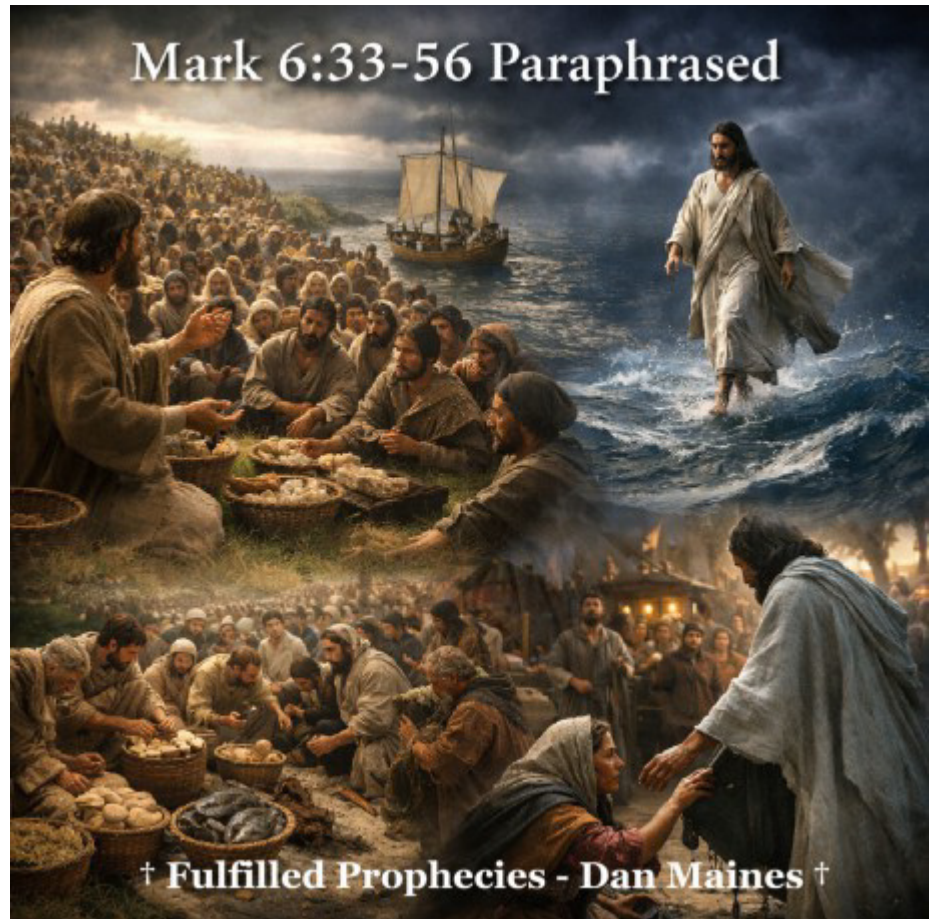
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## Mark 6:33-56 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Mark 6:33-56 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† This passage records the crowds pursuing Jesus, the feeding of the five thousand, His authority over the sea, and the healings that followed when He reached the other side.

† These events happened in the generation leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem, when the Messiah was revealing the kingdom and gathering His people (Matthew 16:27-28).

† Early Christian writers consistently pointed to the miracles of Christ as historical proof that the promised Messiah had truly

appeared in Israel.

### **Mark 6:33**

Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, and people from all the towns ran there on foot and arrived ahead of them.

† The crowds were watching Jesus closely because His works had already spread throughout the region (John 6:2).

† This growing attention shows how rapidly His ministry expanded across Galilee before the final generation of the old covenant system ended (Luke 19:41-44).

† Eusebius later wrote that the reputation of Christ spread quickly through Judea because the people witnessed undeniable signs.

### **Mark 6:34**

When Jesus stepped ashore He saw a large crowd and felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, so He began teaching them many things.

† Jesus recognized the spiritual failure of Israel's leaders who had not cared for the people (Ezekiel 34:5).

† The nation had priests and rulers but lacked faithful shepherds who would guide them in truth (Jeremiah 23:1-2).

† Irenaeus explained that Christ came as the true Shepherd promised to gather the scattered sheep of Israel.

### **Mark 6:35**

When it was already late His disciples came to Him and said this place is remote and the hour is already very late.

† The disciples focused on the practical difficulty of feeding such a massive crowd.

† Their concern revealed how impossible the situation appeared from a human perspective.

† Yet God had repeatedly provided for His people in wilderness

places before (Exodus 16:4).

### **Mark 6:36**

Send the people away so they can go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy something to eat.

† The disciples assumed the only solution was to dismiss the crowd.

† They had not yet realized that Jesus intended to provide the answer Himself.

† This moment tested their understanding of His power.

### **Mark 6:37**

But He answered and said you give them something to eat.

They replied should we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread and give it to them to eat.

† Jesus challenged their thinking by telling them to feed the crowd.

† Two hundred denarii represented an enormous expense, making the situation appear impossible.

† The disciples were forced to confront their dependence on Christ.

### **Mark 6:38**

He asked how many loaves do you have. Go and see. When they checked they said five loaves and two fish.

† The available food was extremely small compared to the size of the crowd.

† This small supply set the stage for a miracle demonstrating divine authority.

† God often works through what appears insufficient in human eyes.

### **Mark 6:39**

Then He instructed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.

† Jesus organized the crowd before the miracle took place.

† The mention of green grass indicates the spring season around Passover (John 6:4).

† Order and preparation were established before the provision came.

### **Mark 6:40**

So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.

† The organized seating made distribution possible.

† This arrangement resembles how Israel was organized in the wilderness under Moses (Exodus 18:21).

† The structure ensured everyone could receive food.

### **Mark 6:41**

Taking the five loaves and two fish He looked toward heaven and gave thanks, then He broke the loaves and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the people, and He divided the fish among them all.

† Jesus acknowledged the Father before providing the food.

† The disciples became the ones distributing the miracle to the crowd.

† This moment foreshadowed their future role in serving and teaching others.

### **Mark 6:42**

They all ate and were satisfied.

† The miracle provided real physical nourishment.

† No one in the crowd went hungry.

† This demonstrated the authority of Christ over creation.

### **Mark 6:43**

They picked up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and also of the fish.

† The leftovers exceeded the original supply.

† The twelve baskets likely symbolized the twelve tribes of

Israel.

† God's provision didn't merely meet the need, it overflowed beyond it.

### **Mark 6:44**

Five thousand men ate the loaves.

† The total number present would have been much larger when women and children were included.

† This miracle became widely known throughout the region.

† It confirmed the growing recognition of Jesus as the promised Messiah.

### **Mark 6:45**

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side toward Bethsaida while He sent the crowd away.

† Jesus separated the disciples from the crowd immediately after the miracle.

† The people were beginning to see Him as a political leader (John 6:15).

† His mission was the kingdom of God, not a national revolt.

### **Mark 6:46**

After saying goodbye to them He went up on the mountain to pray.

† Jesus often withdrew to pray even after major miracles.

† This shows His continual dependence on the Father.

† Prayer remained central to His ministry.

### **Mark 6:47**

When evening came the boat was in the middle of the sea and He was alone on land.

† The disciples were now struggling on the lake without Him present.

† Darkness and distance set the stage for another powerful

demonstration.

† The moment prepared them to witness something extraordinary.

### **Mark 6:48**

Seeing them struggling to row because the wind was against them, around the fourth watch of the night He came to them walking on the sea and He intended to pass by them.

† The fourth watch was between three and six in the morning.

† The disciples had been fighting the wind for hours.

† Walking on the water revealed Christ's authority over the forces of nature.

### **Mark 6:49**

When they saw Him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost and cried out.

† The sight was so unexpected that fear overwhelmed them.

† They couldn't immediately understand what they were seeing.

† Their reaction shows how extraordinary the event truly was.

### **Mark 6:50**

They all saw Him and were terrified, but immediately He spoke with them and said take courage, it is I, do not be afraid.

† Jesus calmed their fear with His voice.

† The phrase it is I reflects divine authority and identity (Exodus 3:14).

† His presence replaced fear with reassurance.

### **Mark 6:51**

Then He climbed into the boat with them and the wind stopped, and they were completely amazed.

† The storm ended the moment Jesus entered the boat.

† Creation itself responded to His authority.

† The disciples were overwhelmed by what they witnessed.

### **Mark 6:52**

They had not understood about the loaves because their hearts were hardened.

† Even after the feeding miracle they still struggled to grasp its meaning.

† Spiritual understanding often develops slowly.

† Later events would help them recognize who Jesus truly was.

### **Mark 6:53**

When they crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret and anchored the boat.

† The journey across the lake ended along the western shore of Galilee.

† News of Jesus had already spread widely throughout this area.

† The people were already waiting.

### **Mark 6:54**

As soon as they got out of the boat the people recognized Him.

† His reputation had spread throughout the region.

† Many had already heard of the miracles.

† Recognition triggered immediate activity among the crowd.

### **Mark 6:55**

They ran through that whole region and began carrying the sick on mats to wherever they heard He was.

† People rushed to bring the sick because they believed He could heal them.

† This demonstrates the widespread faith in His power.

† Entire communities responded to His presence.

### **Mark 6:56**

Wherever He entered villages or cities or countryside they laid the sick in marketplaces and begged Him that they might just touch the edge of His cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

† Even touching His garment brought healing (Mark 5:27-29).

† These miracles fulfilled the prophetic expectation of restoration through the Messiah (Isaiah 35:5-6).

† The works confirmed that the kingdom of God had arrived among them.

### **Historical References**

† Josephus recorded that large crowds gathered around teachers and prophets in Judea during the first century.

† Eusebius described how the fame of Jesus spread rapidly throughout the region because of the miracles people witnessed.

† Irenaeus wrote that the works of Christ confirmed His identity as the promised Son of God and Shepherd of Israel.

### **How it applies to us today**

† These events remind us that Christ's power isn't limited by human resources.

† The same Lord who fed thousands still provides for His people today.

† His authority over nature, sickness, and human need continues to define His reign.

### **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** Why did the crowds run ahead of Jesus.

**A** They had already witnessed miracles and wanted to hear His teaching and see His works (John 6:2).

**Q** Why did Jesus say the people were like sheep without a shepherd.

**A** Israel's leaders had failed to guide the people faithfully (Ezekiel 34:5).

**Q** Why did Jesus feed the crowd instead of sending them away.

**A** The miracle revealed God's provision and confirmed the authority of Christ (Exodus 16:4).

**Q** Why were the disciples afraid when Jesus walked on the

water.

**A** They didn't yet understand the full power and identity of Jesus.

**Q** What did the healings prove about Jesus.

**A** They confirmed that He was the promised Messiah who would restore and heal God's people (Isaiah 35:5-6).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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### **Source Index**

† Mark 6

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

Mark 6:1-32 Paraphrased

<https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1129.html>

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