



Part III : Leaving Galilee

Readings for the week : Mark 6:6-8:22

Introduction

- **Pray :** Take a few moments of silence and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.
- **Share:**
 - Last week we looked at the freedom Jesus wants to bring into the different aspects of our lives (physical, psychological, spiritual and social). How have you experienced this liberation this week? What area is still weighing on you?
 - What did you learn from this week's reading?

Brief summary of Mark 6:6-8:22

- Jesus sends the 12 on a mission.
- King Herod is confused about Jesus' identity as news of John the Baptist's execution spreads.
- Miracles around the lake raise the question of Jesus' identity.
- Jesus' mission extends into non-Jewish lands, and Jesus questions the notion of "purity".
- Opponents and supporters still don't really understand who Jesus is.

Excerpt - The mission of the disciples

Reread Mark 6:6-13

- Jesus sends his disciples here with a sense of urgency. His instructions indicate the urgency of the mission. They don't even have time to prepare, to make plans, to save and to stock up. He sends them out as they are, dependent on the hospitality of the people and the grace of God. Jesus is probably not giving instructions here for all generations of believers; not all followers of Jesus are called to live perpetually in beggary.
- His disciples had the mission of announcing the message of the Kingdom: King Jesus is here and that changes everything, so repent and believe in him! This announcement was supposed to enable people to join the Jesus movement by repenting and listening to Jesus.
- As this passage shows, the message was not in words alone, but in words accompanied by power (cf. 1 Thess 1:5). Indeed, the disciples had the authority to cast out evil spirits and heal the sick.
- Since it concerns a particular time and a particular group of people ("the Twelve"), this passage is not to be taken literally at all times for the church, but it does give us food for thought:
 - the mission of believers: what is our primary mission in this world? We too are sent out to proclaim the Good News (cf. Mk 16:15).
 - believers' way of life: what are our priorities and what does "living by faith" mean for us today? God invites us to live according to a logic of love, faith and obedience, rather than profit, comfort and security. It's a challenge for us all!
 - to the authority of believers: what should we expect as a manifestation of the liberating action of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Jesus' disciples were not superheroes; the only source of their power was their faith in Jesus. Believers receive from Jesus the authority to oppose that which destroys life (Cf. Mk 16:17-19).
- How do you react to these ideas? Which of these three questions most resonates with you today?

Apply this message to our lives

Believer's authority

- Watch this short video (in french, subtitles on youtube), discuss it and pray according to what the Holy Spirit puts on your hearts: <https://youtu.be/ma68SF2wMmE?si=PuGPxzTYgL2qCRi3>

Living by faith

- Conclude your meeting by discussing how you want to live a little more by faith this week.

For more information on this series or for more resources to help you move forward with God, please contact Ruben (ruben.binyet@icf-ge.ch).

To deepen and develop your faith, don't forget to sign up for the next ICF-College session (info on icf-ge.ch).