

Week Six: Episode 06
Mark 6:7-56

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. This week, we'll spend time digging into how Jesus did (and still does) use broken, imperfect humans to achieve his will. We'll look at the stories of some pretty broken people that God used in some pretty amazing ways. First, please grab your Bible and read Mark 6:6-12. Here, Jesus calls the Twelve (the disciples) and instructs them to go and do his work. Does anything surprise you about this passage?

2. The Bible says that Jesus sent the disciples out two by two, with authority over unclean spirits, preaching repentance, and even healing people. If you were in a disciple's shoes, which of these might surprise or intimidate you the most? It does not appear Jesus was concerned about steering the man toward a specific conclusion. He reminded the man of the full weight of the law required to be good, and stated that no one is good except God alone. How did the man respond to Jesus in verse 21?

3. Why do you think that Jesus sent the disciples out two by two? What is the advantage of this? If the young man actually believed that he perfectly kept the commandments, why do you suppose he would even ask Jesus this question in the first place?

4. You might already know this, but... the disciples were not the type of people you would expect to carry out the work of the Messiah. Let's look at two of the disciples before Jesus found them. Read the following references and summarize what we know about each of them.
 - a. Read Luke 5:1-11

 - b. Matthew 9:9-12

5. Simon was a Zealot. Zealots were Jewish fanatics who despised Romans, and believed rebellion was in order. He would've been the type to assume the Messiah would help this rebellion with all of his power and might. How would you rate Simon as a choice?

6. Do you find that you're quick to admit your brokenness to God and others? Or are you quick to defend yourself or hide your shortcomings?

7. As you finish your FIFTEEN, spend a minute in prayer, thanking God for the examples he has shown us in the disciples. Ask him to open your eyes and your heart to his Word this week.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. In today's FIFTEEN, we're going to take a look at one imperfect man that God used for great things. This man's story is a part of God's story and it begins in Exodus 2. However, this man's story does not end until Deuteronomy 34. Of course, we're talking about Moses. Now Moses had a lot going for him in his younger years. If you'd like to read the account of how Moses grew up, read Exodus 2:1-10. Unfortunately, things change in verse 11 when Moses, with the

intention of defending his own people, kills an Egyptian. Fearful, Moses flees from Pharaoh and arrives in Midian. Remember, this is a guy that God will use to do amazing things. Of course, you have probably never felt exactly how Moses felt in that moment. But have you ever tried to escape the consequences of what you've done?

9. Personally, I can relate to having made a big mistake, and facing the intense truth that I could not undo what was done. Moses felt that as he arrived in Midian. In Exodus 2, we learn that Moses ends up staying in Midian, marrying a woman named Zipporah, and becoming a father. He seems content to live out this new and different life. However, God has different plans for Moses. Have you had an experience where God's plan for your life was different than your own? Reflect on what happened there.
10. Why do you think people struggle with embracing God's "change of plans" in their life?
11. In Exodus 3 and 4, God's presence comes to Moses from within a burning bush. God explains to Moses that the Israelite's slavery is hurting his heart. He tells Moses exactly what he wants for him to do. He promises to be with Moses. What is Moses' response? *"Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."*
12. Oh, Moses, Moses. Broken crayons still work, and God can still use a man who has some difficulty in public speaking. Yet, even after God answers Moses's questions, Moses asks God to send someone else. Have you ever known that God was calling you to something, but felt ill-equipped?
13. Have you ever felt so imperfect that you asked God to use someone else? Why is that?
14. The great news is that God wouldn't let Moses off the hook. He used Moses to lead God's people out of slavery and into the Promised Land (almost). Sure, he made mistakes, but that could never stop God's plan. In Deuteronomy 34, we read, "For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel" (Deuteronomy 34:12). Spend the rest of your FIFTEEN in prayer thanking God for Moses' example, and asking for the confidence to do what he has planned for us.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

15. In today's FIFTEEN, we're going to talk about someone, who may not be the first person to come to mind when considering all of the broken people that Jesus brought into his mission. Most likely, it's because we never knew her name. This woman is only known to us as "the woman at the well" or "the Samaritan woman." This woman's story, which is a part of God's story, is found in John 4. In this chapter, Jesus is traveling through Samaria on his way to Galilee. Read John 4:9-26. What is your first reaction to her story?
16. Why might others see this woman as broken?
17. John makes a point to tell us that it's about noon when Jesus arrives at the well. This is a very unusual time to draw

water from the well. In fact, it's safe to say that none of the other women would be drawing water from the well at this time. That's precisely why this woman was there at noon. Jesus says that she has had five husbands. What's more, she was currently with a man who was not her husband. She was at the well to avoid judgement and shame. How have you experienced a fear of judgement?

18. Has a fear of judgement kept you from serving God in a bigger way? Reflect on that.
19. Here's the thing. Jesus didn't just deliver more shame to this woman. He didn't beat around the bush or brush her past under the rug. God is really never cautious about telling it like it is. What he does do is proclaim that the Gospel is for her. The woman responds in faith, and Jesus tells her that he is, in fact, the Messiah. When she hears this, she runs to the town and spreads the news. Read John 4: 39-42. Describe what your reaction may have been if you were in her shoes.
20. The beautiful thing here is that this woman used to actively avoid people who could judge and criticize her for her brokenness. Once Jesus comes in, she actively seeks them out. Jesus has entered her brokenness, and she released all of her shame. It pales in comparison to who he is. Has God entered into your brokenness? Are there any areas you're trying to keep him out of? Spend the rest of your FIFTEEN inviting God into those areas of your life.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

21. Today is our third and final story of a man who people remember as being pretty incredible, but also pretty broken. We read about a lot of his lows, but also many of his highs. This man is Peter. As mentioned on Day One, Peter was a fisherman. His call to be a disciple was not a difficult decision. The Bible says that Jesus told Peter and the others to follow him, and they immediately left their nets and followed (Matthew 4:19-20). How long have you known that Jesus was a part of your life? For some of you, it may be as long as you can remember. For others, it may be about a week!
22. For Peter, following Jesus was an instant change. However, that didn't mean that Peter was suddenly without his imperfections. In Mark 8, Peter goes from making a faithful confession about his faith in Jesus, to being severely rebuked by Jesus. This all happens within ten verses. Read Mark 8:27-33 to get the full story. What highs and lows have you experienced in your life with Jesus?
23. Throughout the Gospels, we see a lot of Peter's brokenness in his lack of faith. First, we saw this in his "human concerns," as Jesus puts it. However, we also see Peter's brokenness in Mark 14:66-72. Please open your Bible to this passage and read it now! What challenges you about this passage?
24. It's hard to imagine how a man, who was one of Christ's closest friends, could deny Jesus three times in one night. It's even harder to believe that Peter could redeem himself. But that's the thing. He didn't redeem himself. Jesus redeemed him. Do you ever marvel at God's forgiveness and grace?
25. Jesus named Peter "the rock" of the Church (Matthew 16:18). Peter went on to do amazing things in Jesus. He preached, he healed, and even brought a woman named Tabitha back to life (Acts 9:40). The Bible says that people lined the streets to see him, believing that even his shadow could heal them (Acts 5:15-16). That's what God does

with broken people. Spend the rest of your FIFTEEN thanking him for using broken people like us to live out his story.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

26. This week, we've learned about three people whose brokenness could not be missed. Moses had an anger issue and low self-esteem. The Samaritan woman had some serious issues keeping a husband and was outcast. Peter struggled with his faith and doubt. The fact is, every human God has ever used in his mission has been broken. Every one of us is imperfect. Every one of us has had issues. Does that change the way you feel about joining Jesus on his mission?

27. We got to dig into the stories of three people this week: Moses, the woman at the well, and Peter. Each of them had imperfections. Did one of them stick out to you? Did one of their stories resonate with you? Why?

28. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. What does this passage mean to you?

29. How does the fact that God work's through ordinary, broken people change how you feel about the way he can use you ?

30. Look again at Mark 6:6-12. How did Jesus send the disciples out?

31. You and I have different strengths and weaknesses. Our struggles may be similar, but they are never the same. When we're on this mission with Jesus, we need one another. As part of God's Kingdom, you are valuable and necessary. Imperfections, and all. Finish your FIFTEEN praying to God. Thank him for showing us that the stories of imperfect people are a part of his story. Ask him to help you embrace your own story as a part of his.