

## A Study of Mark 6

### I. Outline. From Headings in *NJKV*

1. Jesus Rejected at Nazareth (Mark 6.1-6; cf., Matthew 13.54-58).
2. Twelve are Sent to Serve (7-13; cf., Matthew 10.1-42; Luke 9.1-6).
3. John the Baptist is Murdered (14-29; cf., Matthew 14.1-12; Luke 9.7-9).
4. The Twelve Apostles Return (30-31; cf., Luke 9.10).
5. Five Thousand are Fed (32-44; cf., Matthew 14.13-21; Luke 9.11-17; John 6.1-14).
6. Jesus Walks on Water (45-52; Matthew 14.22-23; John 6.15-21).
7. Jesus Heals at Gennesaret (53-56; cf., Matthew 14.34-36).

### II. Summary.

**Contents:** The twelve sent out to preach. Murder of John the Baptist. The 5000 fed. Jesus walks on the sea. Jesus heals many at Gennesaret.

**Characters:** Jesus, disciples, Herod, Herodias, her daughter, John the Baptist, Mary, Jesus, Judas, Simon, Elias.

**Conclusion:** The divine authority of Christ is ratified by the divine wisdom which He displayed in all His teaching and the divine power which He manifested in imparting power to others for service, in overcoming all laws of nature for the relief of men and in dispelling by His mere Word or touch all manner of diseases.

**Key Word:** Mighty works, v. 2.

**Strong Verses:** 50 (b).

**Striking Facts:** vv. 3, 7, 41, 48. Jesus the carpenter was the Controller of the universe. Jesus the son of Mary was Jesus the Son of God

[ Brooks, K. (2009). *Summarized Bible: Complete Summary of the New Testament* (p. 17). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software].

### III. Chronology.

**BIBLE PERIOD:** The Period of the Christ.

*If you are not familiar with the 15 Bible Periods, please click here:*

<https://maplehillchurchofchrist.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/15bibleperiods.pdf>

### IV. Words/Phrases to Study

- 6.02... **MANY HEARING HIM WERE ASTONISHED**—“The discourse and the miracles of our Lord struck them so forcibly that they were astonished to the point of losing control of themselves. The verb is imperfect, showing that this condition of being beside themselves with amazement continued for some time. It is, “they were continuing to be beside themselves with amazement.” The prefixed preposition *ek* (ἐκ) meaning “out,” shows an exhausted state of affairs. It reminds one of an automobile tire that has been deflated. Their astonishment was so great that their self-possession was exhausted. In the language of Webster, they were completely flabbergasted. This is the English word that adequately translates the Greek word” [Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest’s word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader* (Mk 6:2). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans].
- 6.03... **IS NOT THIS THE CARPENTER ... AND THEY WERE OFFENDED AT HIM**—“The word is *tektōn* (τεκτων). It comes from *tekein* (τεκειν), *tiktō* (τικτω), ‘to beget, create,’ like *technē* (τεχνη) ‘craft, art.’ It first was used of the worker in wood or the builder with wood like our carpenter. Then it was used of any artisan or craftsman in metal or stone, and even of sculpture work. Our Lord was known first in Nazareth as the son of Joseph the carpenter, and after the latter’s death, as the carpenter of Nazareth. Justin Martyr speaks of the ploughs and yokes which Jesus made. He worked in the carpenter shop until He was thirty years old. There He developed the strong

physique which stood Him in good stead during those strenuous years of His ministry. ... They were offended with Him. The word is *skandalizō* (σκανδαλιζω), ‘to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way upon which another may trip or fall, to cause a person to begin to distrust one whom he ought to trust and obey’; in a passive sense, ‘to find occasion of stumbling in a person, to be offended in a person, to see in another what one disapproves of and what hinders one from acknowledging his authority.’ They could not explain Him, so they rejected Him. The saddest part of all was that His own brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of Mary and Joseph, disbelieved His Messianic claims” [Wuest].

- 6.05... **HE COULD DO THERE NO MIGHTY WORK**—“Jesus’ work was limited in His own country because of the people’s unbelief. The record states that Jesus’ marveled because of their unbelief.’ He did, however, lay His hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. Although Jesus had been rejected by His own, He kept on doing the will of God. ‘And He went round about the villages, teaching’” [Billy Bland, *Mark: Jesus--The Servant of Jehovah, A Homiletic Commentary*, Jim Laws, Editor, 1989, 14th SS Lectureship, p., 190].
- 6.07... **BEGAN TO SEND THEM FORTH BY TWO AND TWO**—“In order that they might ‘support’ and ‘encourage’ each other in their work. Amid the trials and opposition with which they would meet, mutual counsel and aid would greatly lighten their burdens and alleviate their calamities. Mutual counsel might also contribute to their success, and lead to “united” plans to advance the kingdom of the Redeemer. Jesus here, as in all the work of religion, consulted at the same time the ‘happiness’ and the ‘usefulness’ of his disciples; nor are they ever separated. Whatever contributes to the ‘usefulness’ of his people produces also their happiness; or, in other words, the secret of being happy is to be ‘useful’” [Barnes’ Notes]. ||||| “After long wanderings and continuous trials, the twelve were now, in their Master’s opinion, in a measure prepared to work by themselves in spreading the new kingdom. Matthew gives a touching reason for the mission of the twelve. It was because he pitied the multitude, who were like harassed panting sheep without a shepherd, and like a harvest left unreaped for want of laborers (Matthew 9:36-38). Another reason was that the Master wished to train them for their great work under his direction. Two by two. They were sent out in pairs that they might counsel, help and encourage one another, an example that might still be followed with profit” [B.W. Johnson and DonDeWelt, *Mark, The Bible Study Textbook Series*, College Press, Joplin, MO, 1965, an e-Sword Module].
- 6.11... **SHAKE OFF THE DUST UNDER YOUR FEET FOR A TESTIMONY AGAINST THEM**—“Jews considered the dust of heathen lands as defiling compared to that of the holy land (Ezek. 45:1; Amos 7:17), so to shake the dust of any place off their feet meant they recognized it as rejected by God (Mk. 6:11; Lk. 9:5; Acts 13:51)” [Finis Jennings Dake, *The Dake Study Bible Notes*, An Olive Tree Bible App Module]. ||||| “Jews entering Israel from a Gentile territory shook the dust from their feet as a symbolic gesture of entering sacred space. In the present case, this was an act of prophetic judgment on the part of Jesus’ disciples, perhaps equating the unwelcoming cities with Gentile lands (see Acts 18.6)” [NIV First Century Study Bible, with notes by Kent Dobson, 2014, Zondervan, an Olive Tree Bible Study App Module]
- 6.17-18... **FOR HERODIAS’ SAKE ... FOR JOHN HAD SAID UNTO HEROD, IT IS NOT LAWFUL FOR THEE TO HAVE THY BROTHER’S WIFE**—“The details of the sordid story need not detain us: a fearless prophet, a vicious king, a vindictive woman, a shameless girl (none else would dance in public to entertain party guests) and a lonely death. Where were the powers of God’s kingdom here in this situation? Even John himself had been tempted to ask that question while in prison (Mt. 11:3). We can answer only in the light of Calvary, when Jesus himself walked the same path of undeserved suffering for us; for the cross, in spite of its apparent weakness, is God’s power leading to salvation (Rom. 1:16). If Jesus took this path, then all his followers must be prepared to take it too.” [Carson, D. A., France, R. T., Motyer, J. A., & Wenham, G. J. (Eds.). (1994). *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., p. 961). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press]. ||||| “John, a courageous preacher of God’s word, told Herod that ‘it is not lawful for thee to have thy brother’s wife.’ The law of Moses specially condemned the taking of

one's brother's life (see Leviticus 18.16; 20.21). The Bible condemns adultery (Galatians 5.19). Preachers today, rather than attempting to justify adulterous unions, need to proclaim as did John: 'It is not lawful for thee to have her' (Matthew 14.4). Luke shows that John reproved Herod for this sin as well as 'for all the evils which Herod had done' (Luke 3.19)" [Billy Bland, p. 193].

- 6.26... **THE KING WAS EXCEEDING SORRY**—"It is περιλυπος γενομενος (περιλυπος γενομενος) a concessive clause, the participle, an ingressive aorist, indicating entrance into a new condition; 'The king, though having become exceedingly sorrowful.' The drunken king became as sorrowful as one in his condition could become. He realized all the implications of the request. He was now to become the murderer of the prophet whom he feared and respected" [Wuest].
- 6.31... **COME YE YOURSELVES APART INTO A DESERT PLACE, AND REST A WHILE**—"This is as necessary for ministers as for anyone else. In fact, the gospel ministry is the hardest work on earth if it is done right and all duties are performed (Acts 6:4; 2Cor. 4:9- 14 2Cor. 4:8- 18 6:1- 10 10:4- 7 11:26- 28 Eph. 6:10- 18 Jas. 5:14- 16). Some did not take care of themselves and had physical breakdowns (Php. 2:25- 30 2Tim. 4:20)." [Dake Study Bible Notes].
- 6.34... **THEY WERE AS SHEEP NOT HAVING A SHEPHERD**—"They were all slaves to the Romans, and many of them lame and diseased, but nothing troubled Christ so much as this, that they lacked pastors and teachers. They that are without a teaching priest are said to be without God in the world (2 Chronicles 15.3)" [John Trapp, *A Commentary on the Old and New Testaments*, Volume 5, an e-Sword Module].
- 6.40... **AND THEY SAT DOWN IN RANKS, BY HUNDREDS, AND BY FIFTIES**—"The orderly division of the people at least facilitated the distribution of food. The Greek phrases *symposia symposia* (Mark 6:39) and *prasiai prasiai* (Mark 6:40) picture the people spread out on the hillside like several garden plots. This organization may reflect the student teacher relationship that the rabbis fostered by seating their students in rows. [Note: P. Carrington, *According to Mark*, p. 136.]" [Thomas Constable, *The Expository Notes of Dr. Constable*, an e-Sword Module].
- 6.43... **AND THEY TOOK UP TWELVE BASKETS FULL OF THE FRAGMENTS, AND OF THE FISHES**—"...the tired disciples bending double as they collected all the left-over bread and scraps of fish into baskets (possibly for the next day's meal). We should not expect to live a life entirely made up of spiritual thrills; that would be spiritually unhealthy and not help us to mature in Christ. It is strange that the disciples did not seem to have learned anything from this miracle; Jesus had to repeat the lesson later. This was not because they were particularly stupid and unresponsive; it was because they were just like us" [D.A. Carson, pp., 961-962].
- 6.46... **HE DEPARTED INTO A MOUNTAIN TO PRAY**—"Jesus spent several nights in prayer during His ministry. Prayer was a vital part of Christ's communion with the Father and always preceded and accompanied especially difficult situations. This particular night followed a busy day when solitude was sought but not found" [Earl D. Radmacher, General Editor, *New King James Study Bible*, an Olive Tree Bible Study App Module].
- 6.52... **FOR THEY CONSIDERED NOT THE MIRACLE OF THE LOAVES: FOR THEIR HEART WAS HARDENED**—Wuest translates it: "*For they did not reason upon the basis of the loaves. In fact, their heart was in a settled state of callousness.*"

## V. Lessons & Applications.

1. **IS NOT THIS THE CARPENTER...** (6.3)—"Their minds are turned away from the evidence to sustain His claims to the fact that they knew Him and His brothers and sisters in the flesh. To them, He was nothing more than a carpenter, Mary's boy. It is amazing how far some will go to seek and sustain a dogma that has no ground of truth whatever. The plain and simple truth stated above shows that Jesus' mother, Mary, had other children after Jesus was born. Were it not for the fact that some are committed to defend a 'perpetual virgin' doctrine, such approaches to avoid the clear and direct teaching of this passage would never be taken. But like all error, one falsehood begets another. The false doctrine that Mary was a perpetual virgin came as a result of the false doctrine that all are born in sin. Jesus was not tainted with sin because He was born of Mary"

[Leslie G. Thomas, *Companion*, 1984-1985, p. 122-123]. **It is impossible for error to be CONSISTENT!**

2. **AND HE COULD THERE DO NO MIGHTY WORK, SAVE THAT HE LAID HIS HANDS UPON A FEW SICK FOLK, AND HEALED THEM** (6.5)—“Even in hardened Nazareth, there were some who would be blessed though they were in the minority. The Word and work of the Lord will not return unto Him void but will accomplish its intended result (Isaiah 55.8-11). We must not do as those of Nazareth, but heed the words of Isaiah. ... Man can, by his stubborn resistance to truth, close the door of heaven’s blessings upon him. As Jesus left Nazareth desiring to bless her, so might He turn from us and for the same reasons.” ... **CONCLUDING LESSONS:** (1) Teaching truth with perfect wisdom and love is not enough to move some to obey it; (2) The presentation of evidence sufficient to demand the acknowledgment of truth does not mean that truth will be accepted; (3) Preaching truth may mean that you will be hated by unbelievers; (4) The only correct evaluation of Christ is that He is the Son of God; (5) It is impossible to account for the words and deeds of Jesus on a purely naturalistic basis; (6) The unbelief of some is amazing [Leslie G. Thomas, p. 123-24].
3. “It is worthwhile to notice some implications here. (1) The people were offended because a mere carpenter claimed to be a teacher and displayed a wisdom beyond that which the average man of Nazareth was unable to do. (2) And they were offended because He claimed the power to do mighty works, miracles. There had not been a prophet among them for centuries until John the Baptist came, and he was simply a preacher of repentance. The carpenter’s trade was a lowly calling, and for one to step out of such a humble station to that of teacher and miracle worker was more than they would allow. (3) His family was as common and humble as His calling. There is no implication of their morals here, but their social station was such that they were no recommendation to Him as a teacher and miracle worker. (4) The way these brothers and sisters are tied together with Him here is proof that they were His real brethren, not of another family. ...” [Roy H. Lanier, Sr., in *Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1951, p., 211].
4. **COME YE YOURSELVES APART INTO A DESERT PLACE, AND REST A WHILE...** (6.31)—“This brings us back to our subject of recreation. And this was recreation in the form of a much needed rest from wearisome toils. There were two reasons for the attempted vacation. (1) The disciples had been on a preaching tour; they had worked hard and travelled long hours. They needed a rest, as did Jesus, and Jesus wished to hear their reports of accomplishments, and how the people had received them. (2) John had just been beheaded, and there was an element among the Jews who thought this an opportune time to rebel against Rome. From John 6.15 we learn that it was at this time the people tried to make Him king by force. They knew His power to work miracles, and if He could be persuaded to use this great power for His country, they might throw off the yoke of Rome. It was to get away from this situation that Jesus wished to go elsewhere for a rest” [Roy H. Lanier, Sr., in *Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1951, p. 229].
5. **SIT DOWN BY COMPANIES UPON THE GREEN GRASS...** (6.39)—“There had to be order and system in feeding such a multitude, else confusion would have reigned. There is order and system in what the Lord does; that is characteristic in all His works. Such a multitude would not of themselves arrange themselves in such groups as to make it convenient to distribute the food to all alike. Jesus as host, had charge of all preparations for feeding the people. “And he commanded them that all should sit down by companies upon the green grass. And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.” It is said that “*the Jewish dining room was arranged like the Roman: three tables forming three sides of a square, and with divans or couches following the outside line of the tables.*” Arranging this crowd in squares with one side of the square open, or in a V-shape made it more convenient for the disciples in distributing the food to them. The green grass made a pleasant carpet on which to sit or to recline.” [R.L. Whiteside, *Annual Lesson Commentary on Bible School Lessons*, 1944, p. 46].
6. **TWELVE BASKETS FULL OF THE FRAGMENTS...** (6.43)—“Five thousand, besides women and children ate, and were filled. John reports Jesus as saying, ‘Gather up the broken pieces which remain over, that nothing be lost.’ ‘And they took up broken pieces, twelve basketfuls, and also of the fishes.’

There is a lesson on economy in this. No useful thing should be wasted; to waste that which can be of use is a sin. This example of Jesus should be our guide. But this question may arise: If Jesus wanted nothing lost, why did He increase the amount so far above what they could eat? Think a little. Had everything been eaten to the last scrap, even though everyone had eaten to the full, they might have wondered how everyone got enough out of so little; but when all were filled, then more was taken up than they began with, everyone could readily see that a miracle had been wrought. For a miracle to be effective it had to be performed in such a way that all could see that it was a real miracle, and not a fake. There could have been no doubt as to the reality of this miracle” [R.L.Whiteside, *Annual Lesson Commentary on Bible School Lessons*, 1944, p. 47].

VI. Questions.

True or False

- 01. \_\_\_\_ John the Baptizer was in prison because of something he had said to King Herod.
- 02. \_\_\_\_ We are not told what time it was that Jesus walked on the water.
- 03. \_\_\_\_ There was no certain subject matter preached by the apostles when Jesus sent them out two by two.
- 04. \_\_\_\_ When Jesus saw the crowd, His description of them was that they were “as sheep not having a shepherd.”
- 05. \_\_\_\_ Baskets of fragments remaining from the great feeding miracle were as many as apostles that Jesus had.

I Found it in Verse(s)

- 06. \_\_\_\_ Jesus says: **BE OF GOOD CHEER.**
- 07. \_\_\_\_ King Herod feared John the Baptizer.
- 08. \_\_\_\_ Jesus sent out the Twelve and told them to take no money.
- 09. \_\_\_\_ Herodias’ SICK advice to her daughter.
- 10. \_\_\_\_ Number of loaves and fishes used to feed a great multitude.

Short Answer

- 11. As many as touched this were made whole:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Mark gives a little detail about the COLOR of the grass, it was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13. Jesus invited the apostles to come to a desert place so that they might do this: \_\_\_\_\_.
- 14. The apostles \_\_\_\_\_ out many \_\_\_\_\_.
- 15. Places a prophet is WITHOUT HONOR: (1) \_\_\_\_\_;  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_;  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: \_\_\_\_\_

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

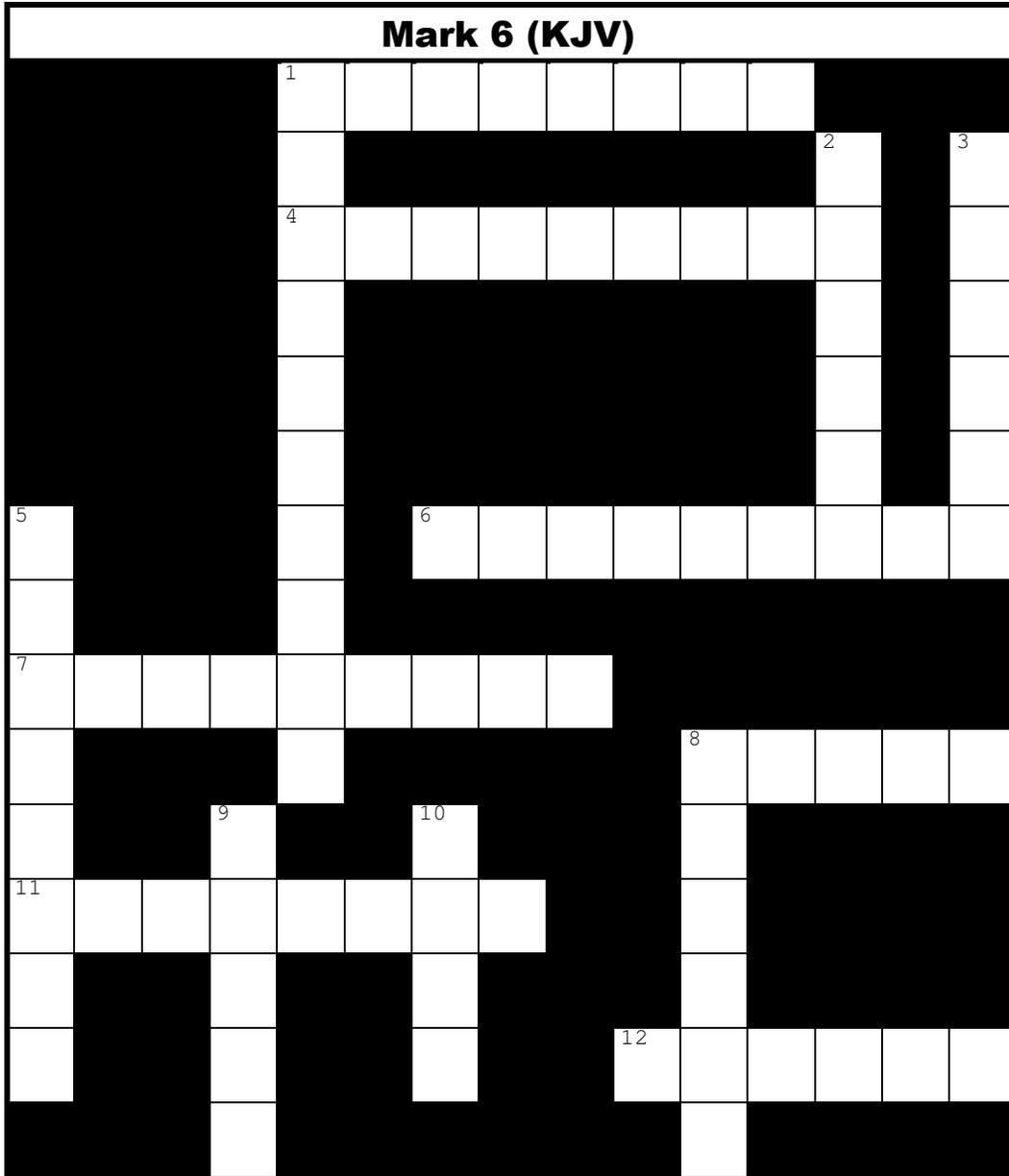
**ANSWERS to Mark 5 Questions...** **01**—False (25); **02**—True (37); **03**—True (31); **04**—True (7); **05**—True (15); **06**—5; **07**—30; **08**—19; **09**—41; **10**—13; **11**—man, tame (4); **12**—all men did marvel (20); **13**—They began to pray Him to depart (17); **14**—Straitly (43); **15**—in, peace, whole (34).

**VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.** The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. –DRL

T L L N D E K I N G J  
 N I E M R M C I T Y K  
 E H T Y A J C A M E H  
 W W I S E V A O L J C  
 D O R E H T O R B P U  
 G R I L J E E E E H O  
 I K P P I H R T U T T  
 V H S I S P H N H O J  
 E M O C A O D E C S R  
 M A V S K R R S A I D  
 O N V I E P C K E R T  
 N Y U D E P A R T M N

<b>BROTHER</b>	<b>CAME</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>COME</b>	<b>DEPART</b>
<b>DISCIPLES</b>	<b>ENTER</b>	<b>GIVE</b>	<b>HEAR</b>	<b>HEARD</b>
<b>HEROD</b>	<b>HUNDRED</b>	<b>JOHN</b>	<b>KING</b>	<b>LOAVES</b>
<b>MANY</b>	<b>OTHER</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>PROPHET</b>	<b>SAID</b>
<b>SAKE</b>	<b>SPIRIT</b>	<b>TEACH</b>	<b>TOUCH</b>	<b>WENT</b>
<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WORK</b>			

VIII. Crossword Puzzle.



- | <u>ACROSS</u>  | <u>DOWN</u>  |
|--|--|
| 01) Jesus told them to take no money.                        | 01) Many hearing Jesus were ____ at His wisdom.        |
| 04) Jesus said it would be more ____ for Sodom and Gomorrah. | 02) Apostles preached men should...                    |
| 06) Used to describe Jesus in Nazareth.                      | 03) Herod, on his birthday, made a ____ to his lords.  |
| 07) Modifies sorry.  | 05) And they went out and ____ that men should repent. |
| 08) Use it to carry money.                                   | 08) Herod sent John there.                             |
| 11) Her daughter danced.                                     | 09) Jesus gave the apostles this over unclean spirits. |
| 12) There were five of them in this chapter.                 | 10) Herod would give Herodias' daughter up to ____.    |

**IX. EXTRA CREDIT FOR “SUPER” Bible Students...**

*Will you please consider answering these three SIMPLE questions based on the Bible text of this chapter? I will try to make use of your answers. Bring them with you next week. Tear out this last sheet from the Study Guide and be prepared to put it in a basket. I think it will be a great help to all of those in the class if you will do so. Thank you in advance for your marvelous cooperation!*

**W O R D: What word would you like to know more about in this chapter?**

**W O N D E R: I wonder what this phrase, verse, or series of verses means...**

**W I S H: I wish myself—or others whom I know or even don’t know—would understand this fact, principle, or concept from this chapter...**