

Mark 6. 14-29

The Death of John the Baptist

May 11, 2014

Review: Mark's big question - *Who is Jesus?*

Rejection at Nazareth / Sending of the twelve (previous in chapter 6)

What are we going to do with him?

6.14-15

- The question of Jesus identity.
- Is he John, the raised up miracle worker?
- Is he Elijah the prophet announcing God's future plan?
- Is he another prophet? (miracles and wisdom)?
- In reality John was Elijah and Jesus is God's present plan.
- Misunderstood John, Jesus, and Paul (Acts 21.38).
- Be careful how you hear / the parable of the soils.
- Misunderstanding and concern with public perception.
- What will control us? What are we motivated by?

6.16-20

- Who Herod thinks Jesus is.
- The Herods – a first century reality TV family.
- Herodias and Antipas union is a problem for John.
- Antipas' trouble with John, drawn but deeply disturbed.
- The diplomatic prison compromise.
- Diplomacy, manipulation, or people-pleasing doesn't work with God.
- Who will we serve?
- When push comes to shove, who will we shove?

6.21-25

- Herod's birthday bash designed to show off.
- A dance designed for death.
- Dark humor and Herod's dismay.

6.26-29

- Observation: When we're confronted with the truth, what will we do with it?
Herod Antipas, like his father, in the party scene chooses his kingship over truth.

- Observation: You'll notice that John is in not in the foreground of this narrative; this is John's passion, as he goes ahead of Jesus in more ways than one. This passage points us to Jesus' humble sacrifice
- God has called us to action, are we willing to follow regardless of how the world treats us?
- Are we going to stand for the truth, like John, or cower in pride like Herod?
- The mind of Herod and the mind (or attitude) of Jesus.
- Sometimes standing for justice and what is right means bowing in humility and selflessness.
- Philippians 2.3-11

Next week: Jesus gives a feast, totally unlike Herod's, providing everything we need to follow him and help transform the world.

Discussion Questions

- Have you even attempted to find a diplomatic or manipulative solution to what God says to you? How did that unfold?
- What are some things we sometimes need to give up in order to follow God's call to action?
- Why is pride so challenging to wrestle with? How does Jesus call us out of our pride?
- What has God called you into, that might mean some sacrifice, and would you share that with the group and then let the group pray over you?