

## Mark 6:7-29

### I. Review:

- 1) Jesus isn't just heading to Nazareth for "homecoming". He is equipping His disciples for what life as a witness to Him would be like. He also was confronting non-belief in friends and family.
    - a. Part of the non-belief was the "familiarity breeds contempt issue", the new Him as a boy, and as the son of the carpenter.
  - 2) Jesus "astonished" His hearers through His wisdom and mighty works. There is a good chance they reacted as others like in Mk. 1:22 who reacted to His teaching with "authority" and not like the teachers of the law.
  - 3) Jesus shows His disciples that making people aware of their sin and hard heartedness is part of being a witness to the gospel. (Before they can appreciate the cure, they need to understand the disease, sin).
  - 4) Jesus does few "mighty works" there because of their lack of faith. Jesus was not putting on a show, but leading people to trust, and deepen trust and faith in the Lord. When He was met with lack of faith, He left them in their unbelief.
  - 5) Spiritual growth is a long obedience in the same direction, very seldom is there immediate gratification involved in it.
  - 6) Hardness of heart and lack of belief and trust, breaks the heart of God, and it should break ours.
- 

### I. Vs 7-9 Jesus sends out the twelve (in Judaea):

- A. He gave them authority over unclean spirits (This is the battle; evil against the reign of God)
  - 1) Given the power of the Spirit. (Focus here is much like John, preparing the way for Christ)
- B. He sent them out two by two. (Calvin believes this was a short mission, maybe a few days).
  - 1) There is still great wisdom in this today. Why is this a significant strategy?
- C. Why would Jesus charge them to "take nothing for their journey except a staff"?
  - 1) The staff in Mark is the light traveling stick, as compared with the heavier stick forbidden in Matthew and Luke.
  - 2) How did He expect them to survive without bread, bag, money, extra clothes? Travel light!
    - a. Trust that the Lord will use whatever means to provide for them.
    - b. Remember Elijah and the ravens in I Kings 17:2-16.

### II. Vs 10,11 What is the purpose of Jesus directions concerning where they stay? (Read the Message)

- A. It may be about extravagance, but it also just may be about the temporary nature of their stay in each place.
- B. What purpose does shaking the dust off their feet serve? (Symbolic)
  - 1) It is meant as a curse and shows how serious the rejection of God's Word is.
  - 2) To whom is this action a testimony?
  - 3) In the Matthew account He refers to Sodom and Gomorrah as a sign of how serious their contempt of the Lord's word is.

### III. Vs 12, 13 The carrying out of Christ's commission:

- A. They proclaimed that people should repent. (Repentance is the preparation that gets them ready for the gospel).
  - 1) They cast out many demons
    - a. This is a great reminder for us that our battle is also against demons (principalities and powers) Ephesians 6:12.
  - 2) They anointed many with oil and healed them.
    - A. (James 5:14) Are we still called to this today? (How is this different than "extreme unction"?)
    - B. What is the focus of "anointing with oil"? Is it a magic formula for healing?

- IV. Vs 14-29 Herod, Herodias, and the beheading of John the Baptist
- A. Herod heard of Jesus activity and feared that John the Baptist had been raised from the dead. (Belief even then in “reincarnation”).
    - 1) The power of guilt and thinking the “reincarnated John had more powers than even the John who had been killed” (Calvin)
  - B. Vs 17-20 Story behind Herod’s fear and guilt:
    - 1) Herod imprisoned John for saying that his marriage to his brother Philip’s wife Herodias was adultery. (The world doesn’t take kindly to being called out in sin).
      - a) Philip and Herod had different mothers; Philip of Marthea and Herod of Cleopatra
    - 2) Herodias was very bitter about this and wanted to put John to death. Matthew says Herod himself wanted to kill John but was afraid of an uprising if he did.
      - A) It wasn’t enough for Herodias to keep him in prison, her conscience was still afraid.
    - 3) Herod feared John as a holy man, and kept him safe from his wife’s desire to kill him.
      - A) He liked listen to John, although he was “perplexed” at his message.
- V. Vs 15 Common belief about who Jesus was:
- A. Some believed he was Elijah (Malachi’s prophecy (4:5,6) of Messiah , a prophet, or one of the prophets of old
    - 1) Still main issue today between Christians and the rest of the world, the most important question in life is, “who do people say Jesus is”.
    - 2) Many who do not believe in Jesus as Lord; think of Him as a great teacher or prophet. (Examples of this are Muslims, Jews, Mormons, and Jehovah Witnesses)
- VI. Vs 21-29 The occasion for John’s murder:
- A. A birthday celebration for Herod, with a banquet and many leading Gentiles in attendance.
  - B. Entertainment for the night was the dancing of the daughter (Salome) of Herodias. She pleased Herod and the guests. (Having a young unmarried girl dance was itself a picture of the immorality of the event).
    - 1) So much so that Herod made a vow to “give her up to half of His kingdom”.
    - 2) Herodias encouraged her daughter to ask for John’s head on a platter, which she did.
      - a. Vs. 26-29 Even though it made Herod exceedingly sorry, he wanted to save face in front of his guest so he gave the order for John to be killed and it was carried out.
      - b. Tradition has it that later Herodias was driven from position and power and even her homeland, and spent her life in poverty, exile, and misery. (Calvin)
      - c. John’s disciples were able to come and take John’s body and lay it in a tomb. Did this at risk to themselves.
- VII. Lessons to be learned from this incident with John:
- 1) Proclaiming the gospel to a non-believing world is dangerous.
    - a) Many of us today keep waiting for the gospel to be “popular”, not going to happen. (Jn.15:18-27)
  - 2) Sin is the key issue between people and the Lord. Rom. 6:23/Gen. 3:5
  - 3) To be in sin is to live for self and to feel justified in doing so. Gen. 11:4/Luke 9:23
  - 4) Being a follower not only can lead to difficult circumstances, it most likely will and God’s promise is not that we are spared, but that we face them “with Him” and through “the power of the Spirit”.
    - a) Heb. 13:5, Ps 23, Mt. 28:20, Rom. 8:11
  - 5) Being faithful to the gospel still can mean death for the believers of Jesus.
    - a. The witness of today’s persecuted church. Our lives as Christians is the exception, not the rule. Many are jailed, cast out of their families, and put to death every day for the gospel.
    - b. Voice of the Martyrs is a great resource.

