

Mark 6:1-29

So the last several weeks here we have been looking at Jesus as he ministered in two places. The first was in the area known as Gadara and this took place when He had told the disciples that they were to go across the Sea of Galilee to the other side and as they went they encountered a very serious storm that threatened to sink them...that is until Jesus stood up and rebuked the storm and everything became calm.

We then saw that the Lord and His disciples arriving on the other side were able to liberate a man that had been tormented by demons for quite a long time and no one we were told could tame this man. And then as this man was in his right mind and in clothing the people of the city came and asked Jesus to leave.

Jesus then returned back to the other side to Capernaum where he was seen ministering in our study last week to two more individuals. The first was a woman who had suffered for 12 full years with a flow of blood and the Lord did heal her and the second was a little girl the only daughter of a synagogue ruler named Jairus...Jesus eventually raised this girl from the dead and the last thing we saw was Jesus telling the parents and those present that no one should know what had happened...I can't imagine being able to be quiet about the resurrection power of Jesus and yet that was the command.

Now look at verse 1 of chapter 6 and we are going to see a scene change here. It says **Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him.** Well we should ask what it means here when it says that He went to His own country and we know from the scriptures that Jesus considered His hometown to

be Nazareth and I think that as you look at the scriptures that Jesus had already come here one time previously.

We have that account over in the gospel of Luke 4:16-30 and this was towards the beginning of His ministry and Jesus went into the synagogue and taught and this is where he read from the scroll of Isaiah speaking of the Messiah who would come and when He was done He simply looked at them and said “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” and then the crowd became outraged and we are told that those from his own city took Him out on a cliff and were about to throw Him down when He suddenly walked right through them and went on His way.

All that to say the first time Jesus came He was not all that well received and now we are told He is coming back but this time it is different...For now Jesus has proved who He was by performing many miracles and He now has His disciples with Him.

I know that you can relate to this but when you go away on a trip or a vacation and we finally get back home there is a certain sense of peace within us just to know we are back in a place of great familiarity and so Jesus perhaps from being so busy in ministry is now back in His hometown.

Look at verses 2-3 which say ²And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, “Where *did* this Man get these things? And what wisdom *is* this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! ³Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses,

Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him.

So the Sabbath again comes and here Jesus is back in the synagogue once again and we are told that those who heard Him were astonished...and I just can't imagine how incredible it would be to hear the Lord teach. I can't wait for that day in eternity to just sit at His feet and listen to Him.

The real problem for those who were in His city though was that they knew who He was. And so they began to just really be confused about Jesus. They couldn't get past the fact that this man was a carpenter meaning He was not trained in religious ways...they had seen Him grow up in His home and the typical custom was that when you were becoming a man that you would take up the family trade and so you can imagine Jesus learning from His father.

Now the people did mention here that not only was Jesus a carpenter but that He was the son of Mary...Culturally speaking you would not call someone by the name of their mother...You would always speak of how someone was the son of an individual. It is thought that at this point Joseph is out of the picture meaning he has probably died and this is why Joseph is not mentioned.

It could also be that they were making fun of Jesus the supposed son of “the virgin Mary” Surely people made fun of Mary and her family because they claimed she had a child having never been with a man...and so this may have been a derogatory statement they made as well.

And then they began to speak of the brothers and the sisters of Jesus and how really they knew who this family was and how could Jesus be any different or more special than any of them...We do learn here that Jesus had at least 4 known brothers and that He had sisters as well which is really **contrary to what some believe who say Mary was perpetually** a virgin. **Certainly not true.**

And then notice it says that they were offended at Him. How sad that this man who spoke and taught so well to the point that those listening were astonished **was simply written off because of who His family was** and how they had seen Him in life.

Look at verse 4 which says **4 But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house."** I want to just ask you a question as we look at this...**Has it ever happened to you that when you return to those** you used to run around with before you knew Jesus **that they simply can't get over who you used to be?**

I think that's similar to what Jesus is saying here...**That when someone goes back to those that know them well that they often reject that individual...**Certainly that was true for Jesus as those in His own town wouldn't receive Him at all.

Often times as we go through life those closest to us will reject us the hardest. **That can be frustrating can't it?** I mean here we are with the truth of God in our lives and we have this joy and this peace **and of course we would want to take that to those we love the most** and yet often times their hearts won't be able to receive from us.

It may be that you will speak to that person until you are blue in the face and yet they just continue to push you away and then some years later another believer will come to them and say the very same things and because its coming from an outsider they will respond to it.

I think for those of us in this very same situation that Jesus found Himself should be comforted to know Jesus said this would happen...we should rest in the fact that Jesus hears your prayers for your loved ones that so often reject you and that He as only He can will be working on reaching them from multiple avenues.

So once again Jesus is rejected for this second time in Nazareth and then look at verses 5-6 and we will see the results of this rejection. They say ⁵**Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.** ⁶**And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.**

Because the people were so hard hearted, we are told that Jesus could not perform many miracles there except that He laid hands on a few and healed them. I think we can learn here that in some way there must be faith for the Lord to work miracles. I think there are many times that we are coming to the Lord and we are even saying "Lord help me in my unbelief." I think we should pray that the Lord would help us to have faith that He certainly can heal.

Notice also that it says here that Jesus marveled at their unbelief. Can you imagine Jesus looking at you and just being shocked and surprised by how little faith you have?

In the Gospels we only find two times that we are told that Jesus **marveled**...We find it here as Jesus was overcome with awe that these people would not believe...**They were His brothers, His fellow Jews**, they should have been able to see how different He was as He went through life...**and yet after coming not once and teaching them but twice they were so blind** they couldn't recognize.

The other time that we are told Jesus **marveled** was actually when he saw the faith of a **Roman** someone that wasn't even Jewish...**There was a centurion that came to Jesus that had a servant that was sick at home and the** Lord said He would go to that man's house **but the man** simply said "You say the Word that my servant is healed and I know it will be so" and the Lord we are told **marveled** at his faith.

I don't know about you but I sure hope the Lord marvels at my faith and not at my unbelief.

We can also see here that the Lord continued to take a tour going from village to village and notice that the focus was simply on teaching. Jesus was not a demon hunter, He was not going around asking who was sick...He was looking to teach people the truths of the kingdom of God.

And I think that's really a reason why we do what we do here at our church as well **just travelling through the Bible verse by verse and chapter by chapter**. **If Jesus focused on it, we should also...and you know if Jesus wants to do** a miracle to just confirm the things that we are looking at we would be thankful for it.

Well let's move on here as Jesus now moves on from His hometown...surely there was a heaviness in His heart **but just**

because people rejected Him did not mean that Jesus then retreated and decided to stay quiet...Look at verse 7 which says **7 And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.** One of the things that Jesus knew so well was that there was a desire from the Father that others would participate in the work of the kingdom as well. Jesus had chosen the 12 disciples or apostles to be with Him and they have been watching His life and observing how He did things and seeing Him love on others and watching as the Lord set people free and healed them...and now the Lord calls them and He says “guys its time to go out, and its time for you to walk in that same power as well.” That word power there means authority and I don’t think we should think of it like what you and I have in that the Holy Spirit lives inside of us...This was instead an authority that Jesus simply conferred to those closest to Him that they could do as He did.

And notice that they were to go out two by two. I do think there is wisdom in not just going out on your own to look to minister for Jesus...It’s not always possible but when you have someone else with you you can have each others backs in prayer, you can be there to step in if that brother or sister needs some help. When we go out and share in the community we use this same method as we go out in groups.

I want to remind you that in Christ and because the Holy Spirit lives in us that we also can walk in authority over the demonic realm. Certainly Jesus working through us can lead to people being set free by the grace of God.

In verses 8-9 the Lord will have some specific instructions if you look at those they say **8 He commanded them to take nothing for the**

journey except a staff—no bag, no bread, no copper in *their* money belts—⁹ but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics.

As Jesus sends out the disciples notice that he tells them to take minimal supplies. They were allowed to take a staff and that would have been a walking staff and not a staff like a shepherd would carry to fend off prey.

But then the Lord says don't take a bag, no bread, no money and to wear sandals and not put on two tunics...and so the Lord is saying to them that this journey I am sending you on does not carry with it the need to prepare ahead of time.

What we'll see here is that the disciples were really almost sent out on like a short term missions project and so as they went the lesson I believe they were going to learn was that they needed to simply trust that God Almighty would take care of their needs.

I think that you and I as we go through life can trust that Jesus will provide what we need as we serve Him. In 1 Timothy 5:18 the Word says ¹⁸For Scripture says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.” God always finds a way to provide for those that simply serve Him and honor Him.

You know Jesus as He went through life had a reliance on the Father to provide for Him and even sustain Him as He ministered. Over in John 4:31-32 as Jesus was busy in ministry the disciples came to Him and listen to what it says ³¹Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

God is the sustainer of those that walk in His will. Sometimes you and I might look at something the Lord has put on our hearts and we can look at the physical circumstances and the provisions we have and we can come to the conclusion that it simply isn't enough and we in our own minds will sometimes walk away from what God has put on our hearts...Instead we may need to learn to walk by faith just like the disciples were going to learn in this situation.

We ought never to think that God cannot supernaturally provide. In all the years my wife and I were on the missions field we never really had a time where we did not have enough. Keep in mind that in Psalm 50:10 we are told **for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.**

As we follow Jesus, as He sends us out into the world may we learn to simply trust that His provision will be sufficient.

Jesus went on to say the following in verse 10 which says ¹⁰ **Also He said to them, "In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place.** I think what Jesus was conveying here is don't look for an upgrade as you serve Him. Initially I can imagine that the wealthy of a city the disciples went to were probably not all that willing to receive them.

But then as the disciples ministered and the power of God was present people may come to them and say "hey you are so successful why don't you come to my house and I'll give you a wonderful place to sleep...and food to eat in abundance" Jesus simply says don't go there just remain where you are.

Practically for you and I we should look to have humble hearts, there is nothing wrong with advancing in life but may it be the Lord's work and not our own.

Verse 11 says ¹¹And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!"

Jesus warned the disciples that not everyone would warmly receive them...Just as Jesus had been rejected in His hometown so it would be for the disciples. I think you and I can relate to that, there will be people that reject us and hate us for our love of the Lord.

When Jesus says here that they were to shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against them we should understand that culturally when a Jewish person for whatever reason entered Gentile territory that when they returned they would do just this as a testimony that said I don't want to bring any of you with me as I journey on.

Essentially in being rejected and the disciples doing this it was a demonstration that the listeners were behaving and acting like an unbelieving Gentile would. It was a huge statement to do something like this, it would have been offensive for sure.

And you know sometimes you and I simply have to move on when people won't listen to us...For the disciples they were to do so with a physical demonstration.

And then look at verses 12-13 which say ¹²So they went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³And they cast out many

demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.

So we can see that the Lord commanded them in what they should do and then they were obedient to fulfill it. I think that is the way it should be for you and I as well...If our great Master Jesus says something the response should be “Yes Sir” “Please empower me by your Spirit Lord”

We should be immediately compliant with the work that Jesus wants to do through us. In Philippians 3:12 Paul said this of his great desire to respond to the Lord’s calling in his life when he said ¹²**Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.**

As these men were obedient we can see the Lord did work through their lives and they preached that people should repent probably a similar message to what John the Baptist had as they prepared people to meet Jesus.

And then they would cast out demons and anoint with oil those that were sick and they healed them. Later on in the book of James 5 we see a similar command given that those who are sick should call the elders and ask that they anoint with oil and pray over them.

Sometimes in The Word of God we will find some odd changes in the narrative and this next passage may seem like its out of place but I think it illustrates that as we serve Jesus often times trouble will follow.

Let’s see what happened if you look at verses 14-16 which say this ¹⁴**Now King Herod heard of Him, for His name had become well**

known. And he said, “John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.”

¹⁵ Others said, “It is Elijah.”

And others said, “It is the Prophet, or like one of the prophets.”

¹⁶ But when Herod heard, he said, “This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!”

So here we have mention of a King Herod and I want to just briefly explain that there are several Herod's that are found in the Bible.

The first one we have was Herod the Great. He was not a Jew though his father practiced certain religious portions of the Jewish law. His family would abstain from pork and they did not allow any images on coins...At the same time he did follow some Roman practices as well which would have been offensive to the Jews. The Roman senate appointed Herod the great as King of Judea around 40 BC and he was a great builder as he enlarged the temple mount. Eventually though he lost all favor with the Jews. This is the same Herod that is found in the early portions of the Gospel. He was the one that the wise men came before and he was also the one that ordered all the children to be killed that were 2 years old or under in the city of Bethlehem.

What is before us here is a different Herod by the name of Antipas and though he is called a king here he was only the ruler over the land of Galilee and Jordan and we can see here in our text that he was personally convinced that Jesus was actually John the Baptist risen from the dead and we'll see here further in the narrative that he actually had a guilty conscience over what he did to John.

There was always a lot of talk about Jesus and who He was some said that he was Elijah and we should just understand that in the Old Testament in the book of Malachi 4:5 the following is said ⁵“**See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.** One day the people knew Elijah was prophesied to return and so Jesus having all these miracles coming from His life sure did remind them of all Elijah was able to do.

There is always much confusion that surrounds who Jesus is. Some say He was a good man, some say that He was a prophet, some say He was crazy and others still like Peter when the Lord asked who His disciples thought He was said “You are the Christ, the Holy One of God” I hope that today you can say with all confidence in your heart and mind that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament, that you know in your heart exactly who Jesus is.

So Herod was convinced when he heard about Jesus that John the Baptist had actually risen from the dead and now we'll see what happened and why this man had a guilty conscience.

Look at verses 17-18 which say ¹⁷**For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; for he had married her.** ¹⁸**Because John had said to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.”**

I think there is something important to learn here from what happened in this situation. Notice that John was not afraid to speak to anyone no matter how big and powerful they might be and that reached all the way to the top of the political ladder.

I think this illustrates where we are as believers in the world that we live today. Especially with what has happened in the news recently with Charlie Kirk. You and I have a time in our lives where we are having to count the cost a little more. We are having to decide “Am I going to just be quiet about my faith” or “Am I going to press forward in my service of Jesus and as He leads my life am I going to be willing to stand up and speak truth to the world around me?”

Jesus made it clear to us in John 15:18-20 when He said this ¹⁸ **“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.”**

I say this to myself as much as all of us but why is it that when Jesus clearly said we would be persecuted that we can so quickly shrivel when opposition comes into our lives? Why is it we are so quickly silenced by the world around us? Should we not have a boldness in our hearts and an abandonment of even our very lives as we serve the Lord Jesus? I think we set the bar too low for ourselves spiritually. We make a lot of excuses and we get side tracked an awful lot and really only one thing matters and that is surrendering your life and service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

John here took a stand, he was willing to look this Herod Antipas in the eyes and tell him he was wrong and what had happened was that this

man had actually stolen his brother Philip's wife and taken her as his own.

So look this was a messed up family that's all there is to it and really this doesn't address everything about them but I think you get the gist that things were certainly immoral...We do learn as well here that the wife's name was Herodias that Herod stole from his brother.

So you can imagine John is speaking against this man and Herod is hearing it and you know he has the power and the authority to really have John killed but here he responds by arresting John...Do you think there might have been a better way for Herod to respond? I have one...why not repent? Why not change your mind? Why not put away your sin rather than coming against one that is speaking truth into your life...perhaps the world of today should hear this for they are fighting against the authority and the love and the forgiveness of Jesus and they are lashing out in hatred and anger and yet if they would just repent which really means to change your mind and they would embrace Jesus they would find that everything they truly desire in their hearts would be found as He changed them and worked in them greatly.

Look at verses 19-20 with me which say ¹⁹**Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not;** ²⁰**for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.**

So Herodias his sinful wife had it out for John but notice that Herod feared John and looked to protect him...It was as if there was a certain knowledge in the heart and mind of Herod that John was right and he

knows that John is just and holy and at least in his defense he did try and protect his life.

Really if he had been a bold man and been an effective leader he would have just had John released but because of Herodias I don't think that he could...We can also see here that he gladly listened to John when he spoke.

Look at verses 21-25 which say ²¹Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief *men* of Galilee. ²²And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you." ²³He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

²⁴So she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?"

And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!"

²⁵Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

Herod's birthday came and this was a party that was probably filled with alcohol and women and all kinds of sinful activity...I don't think this was like some cake and ice cream and a birthday singing and call it a day kind of party. It may have gone on for more than one day but we are told here that the daughter of Herodias came into the room and I won't go into any details here but she came in and danced in what was probably a very inappropriate manner and really the whole room was probably just sinfully mesmerized by her.

And Herod in his drunken stupor responded by saying to her that she could ask for anything she wanted up to half the kingdom...so he has put it out there in front of all of his guests that whatever she wants she can have.

And she ran to her mom and I think they had this planned together but her mom Herodias immediately requests that John's head would be given to her on a platter.

That's just sick isn't it? You know the world can really have so much hatred in their hearts can't it? It's so sad how broken and lied to our world is and how brainwashed individuals can become as the enemy of our souls pulls people further and further into hatred. I can only imagine that everyday this woman was looking for the opportunity to have John taken out.

Look at verses 26-29 which say ²⁶ **And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her.** ²⁷ **Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison,** ²⁸ **brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother.** ²⁹ **When his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb.**

Notice it says here that the king who was really no king at all was exceedingly sorry. That word really gives the idea that the king was in agony over what had transpired. Herod was broken up about it. He couldn't believe it. He was so upset and if you look at the original language here you'll see that this man was so upset that it was the same words used when Jesus was in the garden before His arrest and

He said this in Matthew 26:38 which says ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

I want to point out that though this man was upset about what was happening he was not so upset that he actually did something about it...I think we see the great weakness of this man in that we are told that because of the words he spoke and the people who were watching that he could not refuse.

This was a man that feared men more than God and in the end it put him in a difficult spot. And Herod was bothered by this in his life...even to the point of thinking that Jesus was actually John risen from the dead.

This Herod had a guilty conscience and I will just say that a guilty conscience will tear you up...I want to tell you tonight if you are here and your heart is just full of guilt that you need to get rid of that guilt and that shame and the only way to do that is to come to Jesus Christ...and I will just say that some Christians will walk around with great guilt in their hearts over things that have happened in the past...Jesus doesn't want you to stay in that place...you need to come and lay that at His feet and refuse to take it back up again and walk in His mercy and forgiveness.

Sadly as we close tonight we see Herod follow through with the request and the disciples of John then came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

I am thankful that if we are in Christ that the end of a life on this planet is not the end of life when it comes to eternity. You and I who

believe are looking forward to the day that our bodies are resurrected and we are glorified and we will just enjoy that time of eternity with our Lord and I for one I kind of look forward to being around John the Baptist.

But listen I just want you to know that if you have not received Jesus Christ in your heart for the forgiveness of sins and made a choice to allow Him to be the Savior of your life and placed your trust and confidence in Him then the sad reality is that when you die you'll be heading to hell and you will face an eternity of eternal judgment away from the presence of God in a place of fire and damnation.

Why would you want to have that for a future when you can have an eternity in heaven, a perfect place with God Almighty...and Jesus paid for your sins on the cross so you could have access to heaven and you could have a right relationship with the Father...You need only come to Him and if you need to do that today then I just encourage you right there where you are to cry out to Jesus and then after the service just come grab me and I will pray with you.

Let me pray for us as we close tonight and we'll worship.

Mark 6:1-29 “The World Will Reject”

Cross References

Verses 8-9

1 Timothy 5:18

John 4:31-32

Psalms 50:10

Verses 12-13

Philippians 3:12

Verses 14-16

Malachi 4:5

Verses 17-18

John 15:18-20

Verses 26-29

Matthew 26:38