

The cost of following Jesus

Mark 6:1-29

1 Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and **His disciples followed Him.**

Jesus has been ministering in the area of Galilee

- but now he's going back home for a brief visit where he grew up in Nazareth
 - **Show picture of me in Nazareth**

○ And Nazareth was like being from a middle of nowhere small town in fact when one of the disciples was called to follow Jesus he said

- **can anything good come out of Nazareth?**
 - that was the kind of reputation that it had.

so Jesus is going back to people who were familiar with him, people who saw him grow up

- people that had heard about his ministry
 - but I love how it says in this verse...

His disciples followed Him

- if you're a disciple of Jesus that means you follow Him
 - a disciple seeks to be like his teacher.
 - we say today that we are Christians
 - but are we true disciples that seek to live as Jesus lived?

if you're NOT following Jesus then you cant say that you're a follower or a disciple

- but here we find that his disciples were following him wherever he went

when he came to his hometown you would think that they would greet him with a parade

- the red carpets rolled out for Jesus and his disciples to come into town
 - as he's become quite well known
 - but it's not that way at all when Jesus comes back
 - and when he teaches on the Sabbath everybody's astonished in verse two

2 And 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!

3 Is 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. 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."

they had a difficult time believing that Jesus could be this wise

- because he was simply a carpenter without any formal education

I've been a carpenter 16 years...

in the early years of Christianity people used to criticize Christianity

- because it was founded by just a carpenter

when you think about it he could have been anything He wanted to be when He came

- according to his own choosing

God could have ordained that the Messiah when he came to Earth could have been a farmer

- he could have been a Shepherd

He didn't choose to be a fisherman he didn't choose to be a salesman

- **he chose to be a carpenter**

- And I think that says something very beautiful about the nature of God
 - that **our God is a builder** and God's a really good Builder too isn't he
 - you look around at our created world
 - you see the most majestic mountains & creations
 - and you say God knows how to build things

and then you break it down to the smallest molecules & flowers

- and you look at the detailed design and structures
 - you say our God knows how to build things

then you take a look at our lives God is in the building business in our lives

- he has to do remodel jobs as he comes to us and looks at us as
 - the ultimate fixer upper

and he says we got to change some things around here we got to fix things up

- **I think one of the things that God the father taught Jesus**

as Jesus worked as a carpenter is he taught him that there's a lot of potential in a log

- can you imagine a big piece of wood being delivered to Jesus on a big cart
 - there at the carpenter shop and Jesus looks at that big log
 - and he thinks of all the potential that's in it

he thinks there's a plow in that log, there's a yoke for some oxen,

- I see in that log a beautiful piece of furniture and as Jesus thought of these things
 - I think he learned deep in his soul that you can look at something very rough
 - and there's a lot of potential in it

aren't you glad that God looks at us the same way

- u might just be a useless Log before God floating down the current of the world
 - but he looks at you and he sees what he can make of you
 - he sees all the Glorious things he can bring out of your life

Jesus also learned that it takes a lot of work and it takes a lot of time

- to make something usable
 - good Carpenters take their time to build something nice

when you're young doing crafts & you try to rush through it your quality wont be that good

- if you want the carpenter to do a good job at your house you better be prepared
 - for him to take some time

that's how God's work is in our life isn't it oh we sit around and we say

- God aren't you finished yet come on let's go
 - you need to get the job done

there's another lesson that Jesus learned from being a carpenter

- **the finest things are made from the hardest Woods**
 - as Jesus looks at our life he says the same thing

some of us are hard wood for God to work on

- but he can make the finest things out of you
 - when a when a carpenter wants to make excellent Furniture
 - the really great cabinets he chooses the hardest wood
- it's the most difficult to work with but he knows that's going to be rot resistant
- superior quality that can endure great pressure & polish up beautifully
 - God knows the same thing is true in our lives

the point is they couldn't believe in him because he was just a regular guy

- and yet he had all this Godly wisdom & knew the scriptures so well
 - how did he know it? well he wrote the book
 - he's the author of the word of God

so here he is expounding to the people the word of God

- I can't imagine what it must have been like to hear a Bible study from Jesus

In **James 1:5** it says **if any of you lacks wisdom let him ask of God who gives to all liberally and without reproach. is there anybody here that lacks wisdom?**

- okay five of us good the rest of you are dismissed

look we all lack wisdom so we need to ask God for his wisdom

- we need to draw off God's wisdom for the various decisions
 - we need to make in our life & how we're going to deal with somebody
 - what we're going to do with this situation

and God gives us that wisdom when we ask

asking God is a picture of humility saying God I've got a circumstance in my life

- and I need help I need direction I need wisdom
 - because I'm not that smart

James 4:10 **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**

Its also interesting it says here that **Jesus had brothers and sisters...**

- there is a false teaching that **Catholics** believe & are taught
 - that Mary remained a Perpetual virgin & had no other children...
 - well the scripture says she did have other children!

The Bible says Jesus had brothers and sisters = he had family

- Joseph and Mary went on to have more children
 - and they're mentioned here Jesus's siblings

The Scriptures say he had four brothers. "And were told here he has sisters,"—

- we're not told how many sisters, but at least two
 - because it's plural,

Imagine being the half-brother of Jesus. You could never blame him for anything!

- Who are Mary and Joseph going to believe?
 - You are the only sinless human being who ever lived.

Imagine trying to compete for your parents' attention with the long-awaited Messiah,

- the son of God, the savior of your people.
 - That was the lot in life for James, the author of the New Testament book

- that bears his name.

It's noteworthy that neither James nor any of Jesus' other half brothers

- believed in Jesus prior to his resurrection.

BUT ONCE THEY SAW HIM RISEN THEY KNEW IT WAS HIM

- THAT IS AMAZING PROOF THAT JESUS REALLY WAS GOD & HE DID RISE!!!!

John 7:5 states plainly, "For even his brothers did not believe in him.

- Yet James starts his epistle by identifying himself as a **bondervant of God**
 - **and of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
 - He doesn't identify himself as James, the brother of Jesus.

Instead, he writes James, **a bondervant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The word carpenter, in The Greek is the word is Tektón

- literally means a handyman, or a craftsman.
 - It's typically somebody who's just like a blue-collar worker,
 - A tektón in ancient times is somebody who could build anything
 - from a chicken coop to a home.
- Because most of the building was stone, it is believed that Jesus
 - though he could work with wood was principally a stonemason,
 - a cutter of stone and a worker with stone.

Many of the houses were built out of stone,

- And we can now understand all of the imagery
 - when Jesus taught about how important it is to lay a good foundation

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount **nobody builds his house on the sand,**

- **but on the rock.**

He worked with his hands. He got them dirty. He knows how to make stuff,

- He was a common person & They were offended at that & disrespected Him
 - because he's reading from the scroll saying, "I'm the guy. I'm the Messiah.

the reason they were offended is because Jesus was just a regular guy

- he was a carpenter, and they say who does this guy think He is?

Jesus was rejected by his own relatives in his home town

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.

Jesus will not allow the rejection of his own countrymen to stop him in Ministry

- he marveled because of their unbelief it blew him away

But Jesus was not going to step back from his work just because he was rejected

isn't that sad you have the Son of God available present ready to work and to minister

- but it says he could do no Mighty work there
 - not that he didn't have the power to do it

but because of their unbelief he could do no Mighty work there

- and so he kept moving in a circuit teaching

it indicates that Jesus would have and wanted to do much greater,

- that he wanted to give a torrent; but they settled for a trickle.
Could it be that God wants to do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think?"
- But, some say Lord, I just want a little trickle." I don't—I want it all! I want a torrent.

⁷ And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.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.

just as Jesus called them to Himself so too Jesus has called us

in 2 Timothy 1:9 the Bible says he's called us with a holy calling

in First Peter 2:9. he's called us out of the darkness into the light

he sent them out in pairs two by two for a couple of reasons

- one for encouragement so that they can encourage one another
 - support one another be there for one another

because as they go out telling people about the Messiah

▪ not everybody's going to welcome them not everybody is going to accept them
but I think a second possible reason Jesus sent them out two by two was for accountability

- he knew if he sent these Knuckleheads out on their own they would mess up
 - so he sent them out two by two for accountability

In Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Solomon said, "Two are better than one, they have a good reward for their labor. If one falls down his companion can help up the one who is fallen. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, he has no one to help him up."

he first of all called the 12 to himself

- and then he called them for a purpose & sent them out
 - God's called you and he wants to send you send me into the workplace
 - into wherever it is that he places us to be a light for him

I love how Jesus gave them power as He sent them!

this is important because if I'm called and the Lord's sending me

- I need his power to be able to do what he's called me to do
 - and thankfully Jesus gave them the power they needed to do
 - what he had called them to do

and GOD will give us the power that we need to do whatever he's called us to do

- so be encouraged ACTS 1:8 you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me

1 Corinthians 15:57 Paul said but thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ

Romans 8:37 says you and I are more than conquerors

¹⁰ Also He said to them, "In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place." ¹¹ And [a] 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. [b] Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!"

as Jesus sends them out he tells them to be content where the Lord places you

- then he also said if they don't receive you keep moving you shake the dust off keep moving forward Jesus said I'll take care of that City

sometimes in the Christian life we will face rejection & disappointment

- maybe somebody's spoken ill of you & u allowed it to attach itself to you
 - what do you do? Let it sit there and rehash it and go over it
 - NO! you shake it off and you keep going forward

some things you just got to let go! don't let the devil mess with you!

- The enemy would love to just have you linger and dwell in discouragement
 - but just move on Shake It Off keep going!

Jesus talked about that in **Matthew 7: 5** don't give what is Holy to the dogs and don't cast your Pearl Before Swine in other words yeah we're to tell everybody about Jesus

- but not everybody's going to receive it so there comes a point
 - where we say okay God bless you I'm going to move on
 - and tell somebody else

¹² So they went out and preached that people should repent.

They were to speak, they were to talk, they were to preach, they had a message.

- They heard Jesus teach and preach; now it's their turn to bring the message,
 - and it's a message of repentance.

the Gospel means good news—but the good news always needs the bad news in it first.

If people don't know the bad news, they will have no reason to appreciate the good news,

- the solution for their sin. And they will not repent

the first message of the disciples repent

the first message of John the Baptist repent

the first message of Jesus repent

- Do you think repentance is an important issue? oh yes

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

¹³ And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.

what an amazing missionary journey this must have been

- they were obedient to do what Jesus told them to do

- and they found the power they needed was available
 - to cast out demons, people were repenting of sin
- and it says they were anointing the sick with oil & people were getting healed

And if you're sick I want to encourage you to get prayer

- let prayer be your first Resort
 - Have someone from church pray for you, anoint you with oil & pray over you
 - that's a Biblical practice
- and here we see it in the ministry of Jesus and his disciples
 - and we even are encouraged in the Epistles to do that

maybe you need healing today = I'll pray for you & our church will pray for you

- that God would touch you and physically strengthen you
 - God still has the ability to heal

Its Biblical to **lay our hands on people and pray for them**

- and we saw that Jesus laid hands on people and healed them in vs. 5
 - and we also see the anointing of oil here and

One of the disciples was named James. This obviously made a great impact upon James,

- because James will write in his little epistle toward the end of the New Testament,
 - **James 5:14-15** **Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick** He saw it firsthand.

They took oil, they anointed people with oil, and people were healed.

to anoint with oil is a picture for us of the Holy Spirit coming upon that person

- it's a picture of the presence and the power of the spirit of God

so the anointing of oil & the laying on of hands is a basic principle in scripture

- and that's what we do here too

by the way after every service we invite anybody to come up for prayer

- and we will anoint you with oil and lay our hands on you to pray for you
 - And ask God for healing

And I get request all the time through email or calls for prayer request

- And it is nice to actually be Anointed with oil and lay your hands on somebody
 - but you know God's bigger than that he can do it over the airwaves

Mike reminded me of that last Sunday!

- **And if you're listening live you can call or email our church and we'll pray for you**

so this is the power and authority that was given to the disciples

- and I believe it's the same power and authority given to us

Here we see the replication of Jesus' ministry.

- He's taking his ministry of preaching, teaching, healing, times twelve
 - By sending out these disciples

We will see in the next verse King Herod got wind of this message of Jesus...

now the scene shifts, the camera pans back and Fades away from Jesus and the disciples

- and it goes over to the Palace of King Herod

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 [4]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!"

What did King Herod hear? He heard about the ministry of Jesus Christ through the twelve

- who were sent out around Galilee. It made a stir as they amplified the message.
 - the name of Jesus "had become known.

And he said, 'John the Baptist is risen from the dead,

- and therefore these powers are at work in him.' "

The Herod family was a tangled mess full of murders and intermarriage

- A very evil family

John the Baptist got killed by Herod— John was the one that Jesus said

- was the greatest prophet of all, and the greatest man who was ever born
 - up till that time, the very cousin of Jesus Christ.

Mark's going to tell us how he got beheaded.

Why did Herod think Jesus was John the Baptist?

- Because there were similarities to John's ministry and that of Jesus:
 - he called people to repentance, he was unafraid of religious leaders,
 - he boldly proclaimed the Word of God,
 - he was unafraid, he was unashamed, he was up front.

Proverbs 28:1 the righteous are bold as a lion.

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."

John called out King Herod, saying 'it is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.'

- John the Baptist was never one to shy away from the truth.
 - He was never one to compromise.

He was never one to give nice, soft, fluffy sermons

- He just got right to the point and said, "Herod, you're in sin. This is sinful."

"That's wrong. That's adultery. You can't marry your brothers wife.

- It's not according to Scripture."

John ended up in prison & beheaded because he stood up

- and spoke out for what was true

John did not fear man = John feared God

- a lot of people today are afraid of what man will think or what man will say
 - when we stand up for what is true & biblical

Jesus said in **Matthew 10:28** he said **do not fear Him who can destroy the body but not the soul but rather fear Him who can destroy the body and soul in hell**

- in other words there's no reason for us to be afraid of man
 - because the worst thing man can do to us is kill us

but then we will be with Jesus in heaven

God wants us to speak the truth but we need to do it in love

Ephesians 4:15 says **we're to speak the truth in love**

¹⁹ Therefore Herodias [d]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 [d]id many things, and heard him gladly.

how interesting is that Herod arrests John

- because John calls him out publicly for his sin

but it says that while he had John in prison he liked to listen to his messages

- he liked what he had to say it's like he had his own personal Pastor in prison
 - that would preach to him and he enjoyed it

He liked what he said but it didn't change his life

- **you can listen to a truckload of sermons and it won't do you any good**
 - **unless you apply it**

so here John is preaching and Herod's listening but the wife had one intention

- and that was to put John to death well the opportunity came verse 21

²¹ Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee. ²² And 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." ²³ He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom." ²⁴ So she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!" ²⁵ Immediately 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." 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.

so John the Baptist the cousin of Jesus was brutally murdered

- on the day of Herod's birthday as the king was drunk with his friends
 - He made a not wise promise,
- People say unwise things when they drink.

when we don't live our life for Jesus we end up saying or doing something

- that we later will regret

and the point for each and every one of us is when we're living our life for the Lord

- walking in the Spirit we will pause before we open our mouth
 - so we don't say something we would regret later
 - We think before we speak & ask God for the words to say

When we are in our flesh, we will say things we will regret..

- **Words are like toothpaste, once there out you cant get them back in**

James 1:19 let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

Pray * Share Gospel