

The Gospel of Mark

Mark 6:14-29 – April 12th, 2026

Be careful how much you love coasting through life, avoiding the challenges and obstacles that come from faithfully following Jesus.

The road to heaven is uphill and can be hard, but don't forget that the road to hell is smooth and often pleasant.

Mark 6:14-16

FOR HIS NAME HAD BECOME WELL KNOWN!

Jesus and His disciples, who had just concluded their first missionary journey. No bag, bread, or money. Not even an extra change of clothes. – Faith and Power.

- Casting out demons
- Healing diseases
- Above all – making known the name of Jesus

Jesus and His disciples are kicking up quite a bit of dust at this point. Roughly 1 year into the 3 years of Jesus ministry, and His name is now known by one of the most powerful men in the country. - Herod the Tetrarch

Attention, but also confusion

Jesus' fame is not only reaching the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, but now the secular leaders of the time.

Who is Jesus?

Elijah – A bold prophet in Israel during the reign of King Ahab who confronted idolatry. Especially the worship of Baal promoted by his wife Jezebel and called the nation back to the one true God. The powers of God worked through this godly man, stopped rain, raised the dead, and defeated false prophets – and then was taken up by the Lord and was not. Confronted evil head on,

The Prophet, a prophet... still in the Old Testament.

Prophets warned the ungodly and called people back to God.

John the Baptist

Scripture foretold of a man who would come, the forerunner of the Messiah.

A man who would be born into a calling. To make ready the people & straight the way.

A Nazarite from birth... as a child, uniquely alive to God – R. Kent Hugs

Raised in modesty (Dessert and Stuff)

Calling people into a baptism of repentance... that the Messiah would come.

(7) There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose... IT'S NOT ABOUT ME!

Matthew 11:7-11 As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? **But**

what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' houses.

But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is *he* of whom it is written:

'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You.'

"**Assuredly**, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Jesus-focused Gospel Centered living is not compatible with a carnal culture

Jesus was crucified that you would be saved out of the world, not that you would blend into it.

Mark 6:17-20

Jesus focused Gospel Centered living...

Can be incredibly uncomfortable and inconvenient.

Machaerus Prison

Nicknamed: Dungeon of the Desert

A vital military stronghold on a hilltop near the Dead Sea. Built 90 years before the birth of Christ. Surrounded by walls and rising even higher than the walls were guard towers over 200' tall. This Dungeon of the Desert was rebuilt by Herod the Great, who added a luxurious palace within the walls of the fortress.

Modern archeological excavations have discovered **banquet halls, prisons, and dungeons** with **iron hooks/rings** that John would have been chained to while imprisoned by this very Herod Antipas. Matthew refers to him as the Tetrarch (25%) and was 1 of 3 sons born to Herod the Great, who tried to have infant Jesus murdered.

WHAT DID JOHN DO?

John gets himself locked up for speaking the truth, not about a powerful person by to a powerful person. – *What we talk about is very important, but so is who we talk to.*

Takes a trip to Rome, is overtaken by this woman, **Herodias**

Only problem was that Herodias was married... to Herod's brother.

Only other problem, Herod was already married to another woman.

John the Baptist calls out their sin of adultery

She was a woman, historian Josephus says, famous for ambition and envy.

She was clearly insulted. (AFIRM MY SIN!)

Sow wild oats on Saturday and then pray for crop failure on Sunday

Caution: Watch out for how you handle personal insults.

Be careful how ruffled your feathers get when your sin is exposed. Those embers of resentment can burn for a long time. "You embarrassed me - I'll behead you."

If we are not careful, sin will always find a way to get what it wants.

Directly – she tried

Indirectly – she used others

Mark 6:21-29 – evening background

Sin is patient and relentless - The opportune day came

Sin & Satan are both patient – gradualists, one bite at a time.

The Setting

Government leaders and military officials, captains of 1,000

Great celebration, luxuries, licentious appetites and opportunities to fill them. The food was hot off the grill and the drinks were flowing.

Musical, constant chatter or conversation and laughter, the light of evening torches bouncing off the walls... and in walks Herodias's daughter. Provocative, indecent, and alluring... *and like a fish to a lure, a moth to a flame, Herod walks right into the trap his own wife set for him.*

Being mesmerized by things that are carnal will lead you to make carnal

decisions The music, the light of the torches burning, the chatter... *½ my*

kingdom, the guests in awe... she comes back in, the head of John. The daughter was set up, but seemingly pleased to join in on her mother's request... on a platter.

Our kids will inherit our decisions.

A slip of the lip...

1. Careful, your tongue, so small, can get you into some big trouble, hurt others, and cause deep regret

... will bring exceeding sorrow

Mark 14 Jesus is the only other one to feel this kind of sorrow in all the Gospel accounts... Herod was sorry... foolish...

Side note: Who you marry matters.

Respond while you still can.

Conviction is only as valuable as your response to it.

He enlightened your understanding, and you either did or did not respond.

- **Politicians** who have not considered God one time in 20 years
- **Business decisions** with nothing more than the climb of the ladder and advancement
- **Kids at school**, stay quiet to avoid attention or participate in sin to keep friends.

Some base their entire lives on what other people think...

You will actually stand face to face with God one day. How will that day go?

Conviction is only as valuable as your response to it.

Herod will get his chance to learn more about Jesus...

2 years later, at the trial of Jesus, we run into a much more callous Herod.

6 years after the crucifixion, in 39 AD, Herod's nephew would overtake him and banish him to exile.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit. (extinguish)

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Sadden)

CONCLUSIONS

Be careful how much you love coasting through life, avoiding the challenges and obstacles that come from faithfully following Jesus.

*There are hard and costly parts to following Jesus
But it will never be harder than eternity without Him.*

Why do bad things happen to good people?

- *A fallen world and free will.*
- It's not that God has turned His back on you, it's that the world has turned it's back on God. – *The hard truth is that sometimes we are the target of other people's sin and fiery darts.*

It shouldn't harden us against God, it should increase our longing for Him.
Lord, come quickly! Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing

SURRENDER ALL

FOR HIS NAME HAD BECOME WELL KNOWN!

Even this "king" is catching wind of this Galilean preacher from Nazareth.

Like the disciples, does your life make the name of Jesus well known?

"ONE MORE"