



The Book of Mark

Session 6: Mark 6:1-29

Through our study of Mark's gospel, we've been getting a clearer picture of who Jesus is and just how much we can trust him. If he's called us onto the road of discipleship, he's shown that he can and will take care of us.

The question for us in this session is "will you be faithful to Jesus regardless of a worldly outcome?" Not always at times following Christ and being obedient turns out the way we want it. That's why it's essential to set your sights on something higher than the temporary.

Question: What do you think about the question and how can you relate to the latter statement?

Read Mark 6:1-6

Jesus returns to Nazareth – his home town. It's only been a year later in his hometown that he was rejected and evicted from synagogue (see Luke 4:16-30). They didn't evict him this time in synagogue, they simply didn't take him seriously.

Question: Think about the possible objections you might have had towards Jesus. What objections to Jesus would you expect during that time, and what questions might you have today?

The carpenter who turned Rabbi. A carpenter that no one expected could do miracles and have profound teaching. Matter of fact, his brothers and sisters still live in town.

Question: Look at Mark 6:4. Why did unbelief hinder their eyes? How does unbelief hinder our seeing even today?

Read Mark 6:7-13

Write down the details that Jesus tells his disciples to do in order to spread the message of the coming kingdom.

Question: What was the key to their success? Does that apply today?

Whether the disciples were accepted or rejected, they were on a mission. It built confidence in them knowing Jesus was with them either way.

Question: Are you ready for the challenge? Will you share your faith with someone this week? If you've never done it, ask the Holy Spirit for help. Either way – however it turns out, He's with you.

Mark makes repentance the hallmark requirement for salvation. No one can be saved without acknowledging their sin and clinging to Jesus. It is always important for us to know Jesus was always calling people to repentance.

Read Mark 6:14-29

King Herod is in total confusion over the spread of the gospel of Jesus. Some were saying that John the Baptist was on his preaching circuit again, but Herod knew that couldn't be true. Or could it? So, he has a flashback.

Question: What got John in trouble with Herod in the first place? Why do you think, despite the trouble, Herod kept John around?

John was in prison for the gospel he preached. It had so offended the person of power, that it cost him his life.

Question: The cost of discipleship – the price of following Jesus – is everything. Up to and including our lives. What is something Jesus is calling you to surrender? It may not be your physical life, but are you willing to sacrifice?

It's remarkable that there is no evidence that any of the Jewish leaders did anything to rescue John the Baptist. The common people considered John a prophet sent by God, but the religious leaders did not obey John's message.

Question: What was the message to the religious leaders? See Mark 11:27-33. Why do you think their hearts were hard? Can we have hard religious hearts as well? How's your heart?

Your assignment: Write down this week, what you think Jesus is calling you to. An act of repentance? A surrendered life? A step of faith?

Next week: Read Mark 6:30-8:30

