

Mark



Lesson 6-Christ, the Twelve, and John the Baptist's Death

Focus: Mark 6:1-30

1. Christ comes to his own country and preaches in the Synagogue on Sabbath (v.1-6)

- a. *Jesus came to his own hometown and began to teach on Sabbath at the Synagogue. His teachings came with power from God that Father and the Holy Spirit, but some of the people were a bit offended. They thought, isn't this just the common, simple, everyday Jesus that we have known—where does this power and authority come from? They attempted to discredit His works on account of their familiarity with Him. They underestimated and discredited the power with which His miracles and message had come to them. Jesus was disappointed by such unbelief. **He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.** He simply healed a couple sick people, and also taught many things. **This is not unlike today. Some ask, "Why don't we see more of the miracle working power of God among us?"** It's because we pray and trust too little. Our faith in Jesus is too small, and we have not expected to see greater miracles from His hand as we should have. **We need to have MORE Faith and trust in God!!***
- b. ***Again we see the custom of Jesus to worship God in the public house of worship upon the Sabbath day.** This day, the 7th day Sabbath, was blessed and made holy from Creation (Genesis 2:1-3); because God had rested on it and made it a memorial of His work of Creation. He protected it in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11). The prophets all called God's people to keep it. **Jesus kept it (Luke 4:16; John 15:10; 1 John 3:4,5). The disciples kept the 7th day Sabbath holy "according to the commandment" (Luke 23:54-24:1).** Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week—the day which we know as Sunday. That means the Sabbath was just one day before that—**So, the Sabbath day is actually on Saturday!!** (That's the real 7th day Sabbath which Jesus himself kept, honored, and even Rested on while in death). **A Christian should follow Jesus' example—we are to be followers of Christ.** In the New Testament, we can see that the 7th Day Sabbath was never "un-blessed" or "un-made holy." There is not a single sentence to say such a thing. Christians affirmed all the Ten Commandments (James 2:10-12). The 1st day, Sunday, has NO blessing, and NO holiness—we cannot find any such words at all in the New Testament. In fact, the early church—both Jews and Gentiles were worshiping God on the Sabbath day (Acts 13:42,44; 16:13—here there was no Temple, so they went to a natural place of peace and prayer in order to keep the holiness of the Sabbath; 17:2; 18:4). Sunday worship is a tradition from the Roman church, which they got from Paganism—when the Sun was worshiped on Sun-day. Many are unknowingly following a man-made tradition that was not in God's word. The Roman church pronounced it Christian, but actually it is pagan in its origin.*

2. Jesus sent out the Twelve disciples on a Missionary Journey (v.7-13)

- a. *This journey was a part of their training which Jesus was giving. **He taught them to work together for souls—two by two.** Not alone—together in God, we are stronger and better prepared to meet any challenges that come along. **HE GAVE THEM THE POWER**, and it is He, Christ, who gives us power to labor for Him today. **They were to go in simple faith, trusting in God, not in the material things of this world.** **They learned the value of simplistic living** from Jesus, and how to have efficiency in the missionary work of God. We are to follow this example. **"No man who goes to war entangles himself with the affairs of this life..."** (2 Timothy 2:4). Jesus teaches us NOT TO BE MATERIALISTIC, but to be EVANGELISTIC, simplistic, and*

efficient in our lifestyle choices! The disciples preached the message of repentance from sin, and seeking Jesus to be saved. They were to be committed to their place of evangelism and to not leave too quickly from it—but to abide and stay there a while. They should not be discouraged by those who did not receive the message, but should remember that every soul will meet a reward for their actions and choices in the Judgment. The anointing service is here mentioned (v.13; James 5:14,15)

3. **John the Baptist had been put to death by Herod—Now Herod felt guilt at the appearance of Jesus (v.14-30)**

- a. (v.14-17) Herod had a guilty conscience on his shoulders. He had allowed himself to be manipulated by a woman. He had made foolish promises while at a drunken party and had not dared to retract them—even though he knew it was a sin to kill John the Baptist. Some thought that Jesus was the return of Elijah the prophet (promised in Malachi 4:5,6—but actually, this prophecy had been fulfilled through John the Baptist—Matthew 11:13,14—not literally, but in Spirit and power, with a revival message).
- b. (v.18-20) Herod had personally appreciated John's preaching, even though John's message crossed his crooked path of sin. **John's message was a straight message!! He preached the Bible truth like it was! He did not honor men's sinful traditions, but He boldly condemned sin in all its forms, and then pointed men to Jesus Christ—the sin-pardoning savior!** (As the solution to the problem of sin). John spoke out against every popular sin of his day!! (This is what God calls His faithful messengers to do). **However, when they do, they will surely have enemies—some people will hate them for the straight message of truth which they preach** (even as Herod's wife did to John). Those who hate the messengers of truth will eventually seek opportunity to kill them or silence their testimony (this is exactly what Herodias did). **She did not have power on her own to do such a thing as to silence John. So, she sought after the help of the government!**
- c. (v.21-24) The daughter served her Mother, and she danced before the government officials to seduce them—especially Herod. Herod offered some foolish words this woman, and she got the request of payment from her evil mother!
- d. (v.25-30) Herod was pliable. He had made a bad decision and a bad offer. Now he realized the foolishness of his words, but he dared not to take them back. He could have perhaps stated that her request was evil and unreasonable, but he dared not to lift his voice. He was embarrassed before everyone to retract his words. If even one had spoken against this great injustice, Herod may very well have decided to deny this unjust request as well—but, since none dared to speak out against this, Herod decided to honor his foolish words and to commit an injustice!—A sin which he knew to be so.
- e. **How is this story also a picture of what will happen in the very last days?** John the Baptist preached a straight message of truth very loudly to all who could hear it. This revival message of truth is also what God wants his last day people to be preaching. However, they have enemies as well for this. **In Revelation 17** the Harlot woman of Babylon is pictured. She is unfaithful to Jesus and His commandments. As God's faithful people (Rev.12:17; 14:6-12) speak out against her wickedness and sinfulness, she will attempt to kill them (Rev. 13:11-17). However, she is not powerful enough to do it on her own. **This woman is not alone either—she has unfaithful daughter churches who follow her (Rev. 17:5)**—she is the "MOTHER of Harlots." Together with her daughters she enlists the power of the state to seek out and to kill God's faithful people. **The state was kind of neutral in this matter at first** (because they are secular), **but these women seduce the state leaders and win favor over to their side. Through these means, they cause laws to be passed which will be in direct opposition to God's commandments, and His faithful people.** As this church-state alliance for evil goes about to kill God's last day people, Jesus will come to deliver His people and to destroy these evil-doers (God's people are delivered, unlike at this one time with John the Baptist).

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your desire to put your trust in Jesus Christ, and to learn how to serve Him faithfully in this life? __