

March 3rd, 2019
Rejection of the Gospel
Mark 6:1-29

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Feb 24 Numbers 31-32 | Feb 28 Duet. 3-4 |
| Feb 25 Numbers 33-34 | Mar 1 Duet. 5-7 |
| Feb 26 Numbers 35-36 | Mar 2 Duet. 8-10 |
| Feb 27 Deut. 1-2 | Mar 3 Duet. 11-13 |

Lesson Introduction: Throughout the book of Mark, we have seen instances where Jesus was mocked by His family (3:21) or ridiculed by the pharisees (3:22) for His actions and teachings. In our passage today, we see three examples of how the ministry of Christ leads to rejection. As we consider the Christian life, it is important to realize that following Christ will often result in rejection from others. This lesson will help us learn that the life of a disciple of Christ is not an easy life. We are called to a life that will often lead to rejection, and yet we have been promised that it will be an abundant life (John 10:10).

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **The power of Christ is reserved for those who believe in His name (V. 1-6)**
- **Jesus provides all that we need to accomplish the work of the ministry (V. 7-13)**
- **Living boldly for Christ results in persecution (V. 14-29)**

Mark 6:1-29

1 He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. 4 And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." 5 And 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. And he went about among the villages teaching.

7 And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 8 He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— 9 but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. 10 And he said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. 11 And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." 12 So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. 13 And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." 15 But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." 17 For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. 22 For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." 23 And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." 24 And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." 25 And she came in immediately 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, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. 27 And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison 28 and 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 his body and laid it in a tomb.

Discussion Section 1: Rejected by Family and Friends (V. 1-6)

-Why were the people of Nazareth astonished at Jesus' teaching?

-How might we face similar circumstances to that which Jesus faced when trying to share the Gospel with people we are familiar with?

-What does Mark mean when he says that Jesus, "**could do no mighty work there**"?

Note: In Mark chapter 1, we saw how the people "**were astonished at His (Jesus') teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.**" In that case, the reason for their astonishment was the fact that Jesus spoke with authority, and they were intrigued and amazed with Christ's powerful, life giving teachings. We see in our passage this week that once again, the people were astonished by Jesus' teachings. But this time, their astonishment had less to do with amazement, and more to do with offense. They were offended by Jesus' teachings because they were in His hometown, they had seen Him grow up, and they could not accept that the carpenter's son could have such authority over their lives.

In chapter 3 we saw how He was said to be "**out of His mind**" by His own family! What we learn from passages such as these is that the Christian life is a radical life, and one that will often lead to mockery and ridicule from those closest to us. Christ here is showing us that following Him is costly, and that living a life that is transformed by His power and authority will often lead people to question us, and perhaps ultimately cause them to reject us (**Luke 12:49-53**). We see in these verses how those who reject the authority of Christ will also find themselves void of His power. Because of their unbelief, Jesus withheld His power in their lives, and we see at the end of the passage that He "**marveled at their unbelief.**" May we too, as we see our family and friends continually turn away from the authority of Christ in their lives, marvel with Christ, and pray that they might see the light and believe.

Discussion Section 2: Prepared for Rejection (V. 7-13)

-Why did Jesus instruct His disciples to go out with minimal supplies?

-What does Jesus' commandment in **V. 11** teach us about how we are to respond to rejection?

-Where was the power of the disciples derived from?

Note: In these verses, we see Jesus sending out His disciples to go and minister with power and authority throughout the region. In verses 7 and 12-13, we see how they were given authority over unclean spirits, and how they "**proclaimed that people should repent.**" These men, who came from common backgrounds and had no social prominence or formal education to speak of, were sent out by Christ to be heralds of the kingdom of God! Not only were they sent out, but they were told to go with no food or money, to wear common clothing, and to take no extra supplies for their journey. And in the midst of all these instructions, Jesus prepares them to be rejected. In telling His disciples to "**shake off the dust from their feet,**" He is letting them know that, if they are rejected, it is Christ who is being rejected. They had the responsibility of sharing the message, but not the authority to cause people to receive the message with gladness. In all of this, from the way they dressed, to the way they were given authority, to the way Jesus instructed them about handling rejection, Christ was teaching them that they were ultimately in the hands of the Father, and thus, had nothing to fear.

Discussion Section 3: Rejected to the Point of Death (V. 14-29)

-Why was John in prison?

-What can we learn about Christian courage from John in this passage?

-What did John's confidence in Christ ultimately cost Him? What did he ultimately gain?

Note: Our lesson closes by seeing what commitment to the Lord and to His word ultimately resulted in for John the Baptist. Because of John's courage to confront sin, He found himself imprisoned, which finally led to His beheading. Throughout this passage we have seen how following Christ can and will result in rejection, both from family and strangers. John teaches us that, to follow Christ, we must be willing to be rejected to the point of death. However, John knew that he was gaining by losing. As we will see in the weeks to come, the cost of discipleship is great, but the reward is far greater! May we be a people who walk courageously with Christ, resting in the future that He has promised (**Matthew 10:28, Mark 8:34-36**).