

“Discipleship is Costly”

June 8, 2025

Mark 6:14-29

Introduction

What is your picture of discipleship, or being a student of Jesus?

In what ways, might it be a bit distorted?

Who is this Jesus? (Mark 6:14-15):

“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.” But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.”

Mark 6:14-15

The common views of who Jesus was consisted of (1) Elijah, (2) A prophet and (3) John the Baptist raised from the dead.

Herod thinks Jesus is John (Mark 6:16-17):

“But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” 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.”

Mark 6:16-17

Herod believes that Jesus was John raised from the dead.

Herod and John (Mark 6:18-20):

“For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, 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.

Mark 6:18-20

What Happened to John (Mark 6:21-29):

- At a party, Herodias’ daughter danced and greatly pleased Herod
- Herod made an oath, publicly, to give her whatever she wanted.
- She, after asking Herodias, said she wanted John the Baptist’s head
- Herod, reluctantly and regrettingly agrees and executes John.

“Discipleship is Costly”

June 8, 2025

Mark 6:14-29

Introduction

What is your picture of discipleship, or being a student of Jesus?

In what ways, might it be a bit distorted?

Who is this Jesus? (Mark 6:14-15):

“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.” But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.”

Mark 6:14-15

The common views of who Jesus was consisted of (1) Elijah, (2) A prophet and (3) John the Baptist raised from the dead.

Herod thinks Jesus is John (Mark 6:16-17):

“But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” 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.”

Mark 6:16-17

Herod believes that Jesus was John raised from the dead.

Herod and John (Mark 6:18-20):

“For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, 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.

Mark 6:18-20

What Happened to John (Mark 6:21-29):

- At a party, Herodias’ daughter danced and greatly pleased Herod
- Herod made an oath, publicly, to give her whatever she wanted.
- She, after asking Herodias, said she wanted John the Baptist’s head
- Herod, reluctantly and regrettingly agrees and executes John.

The Markan “Sandwich”:

- Mark tends to “sandwich” two or three events together to highlight a truth
- The “sending” narrative appears to end in verse 13, but really concludes in verse 30, after the narrative about John’s death.
- Why? What is Mark wanting us to see?

Why Does Mark insert John’s death narrative here?

- **Foreshadows Jesus’ upcoming suffering and death**
 1. Jesus makes first prediction about his death in Mark 8:27-30 (which immediately follows the “who is Jesus” question that we see in John’s narrative.

“And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.’”

Mark 8:31-33

- **Emphasize that discipleship to Jesus is not all about healing, miracles and observable “fruit”.**
 1. Continuing in Mark 8, Jesus gives us a picture of discipleship that is seen John’s life and death.

“And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it’.”

Mark 8:34-35

- Notice, in the above passage, it’s **“for my sake”** (Jesus’) that we deny ourselves, take up our cross, and lose our life to follow Jesus.
- John the Baptist says it this way “He must increase, I must decrease”. Do you hear the love and obedience all wrapped up together in John’s statement?

Discipleship to Jesus is primarily a relationship of obedience flowing out of love for Jesus.

What does this sort of *obedient-love surrender* look like in your life?

The Markan “Sandwich”:

- Mark tends to “sandwich” two or three events together to highlight a truth
- The “sending” narrative appears to end in verse 13, but really concludes in verse 30, after the narrative about John’s death.
- Why? What is Mark wanting us to see?

Why Does Mark insert John’s death narrative here?

- **Foreshadows Jesus’ upcoming suffering and death**
 1. Jesus makes first prediction about his death in Mark 8:27-30 (which immediately follows the “who is Jesus” question that we see in John’s narrative.

“And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.’”

Mark 8:31-33

- **Emphasize that discipleship to Jesus is not all about healing, miracles and observable “fruit”.**
 1. Continuing in Mark 8, Jesus gives us a picture of discipleship that is seen John’s life and death.

“And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it’.”

Mark 8:34-35

- Notice, in the above passage, it’s **“for my sake”** (Jesus’) that we deny ourselves, take up our cross, and lose our life to follow Jesus.
- John the Baptist says it this way “He must increase, I must decrease”. Do you hear the love and obedience all wrapped up together in John’s statement?

Discipleship to Jesus is primarily a relationship of obedience flowing out of love for Jesus.

What does this sort of *obedient-love surrender* look like in your life?