

“Rejection at Home”
“A Journey with Jesus” — Part 10
Mark 6:1-29

1. Rejection at Home

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.

Mark 6:1-6

- The people of Nazareth asked the right questions but with the wrong attitude.
- Prejudice overrules the evidence.
- Jesus' family is ridiculed.
- Jesus' past occupation is used as a putdown.

- **Conclusion:** We know Jesus' family; He can't be anything supernatural.
- **The result:** Their prejudice prohibits Jesus doing for them what He has freely done for others.

2. Jesus Passes the Mantle of Ministry

Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Mark 6:7-13

- No longer can they be leisurely learners.
- Jesus sends His disciples filled with confidence.
- Jesus sends His disciples out in teams.

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

- The disciples are sent to do what Jesus has been doing.

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9

- The disciples must minister by faith. (In Christ's power not their own)

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us... Ephesians 3:20

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. 2 Thessalonians 1:11

- Jesus teaches His disciples the principle of functional simplicity.
- Jesus teaches His disciples the principle of progressive mobility.
- **The result:** They accomplished the work they had been sent to do.

3. Haunted by His Past

King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!" Mark 6:14-16

- Herod latches on to his worst fear.

4. Vengeance Cultivated

For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him. Mark 6:17-20

- Herodias harbored hatred.
- John spoke the truth about marriage morality.
- Herod feared John's power.
- Herod feared losing the support of the people.
- Herod respected the Baptizer.
- Herod saw in John an integrity he didn't have the spine to maintain.

5. The Tragedy of Seeking Your Own Justice

Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to

the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

Mark 6:21-24

- Vengeance is carefully planned
- Drinking and decision-making do not go hand in hand.

6. The Deceptiveness of Rationalization

At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter." Mark 6:25

- Salome must have been well aware of her mother's hatred of John, and she added an element of derision against John.

7. Falling to Peer Pressure

The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Mark 6:26-29

- Sorrow without repentance is never enough.