

***LIFE OF A SERVANT*****Prophets Without Honor     Mark 6:1–29**

*“And he was amazed at their lack of faith.” Mark 6:6*

**Day 1: Read Mark 6:1–6.**

1. In this strange incident, Jesus is rejected in his hometown. Discuss the difference between being “amazed” by Jesus and having saving faith in him.
2. Why was it that Jesus, though all powerful, “could not do many miracles there”? How does this affect you as you reflect on your own manner of praying for Jesus’ help? (You may consider Hebrews 11:6 and James 1:6–7)
3. The townspeople are not able to figure out who Jesus is. Do you suppose that their problem is a fault of reasoning or some other fault? (Consider 2 Corinthians 10:7; Matthew 22:29; John 15:25)

**Day 2: Read Mark 6b–13.**

4. We see the beginnings of the Church in verses 6b and 7. How are you and I, two thousand years later, the arms and legs and tongue of Jesus, and the continuation of his ministry “from village to village”? (Matthew 28:19–20)
5. Why do you suppose Jesus sends out the Twelve with minimal supplies on this first evangelism trip? What does he want them to learn? (Consider Matthew 6:11; James 1:17)
6. Why do you think the disciples are to stay put in one house? What if they get offered more comfortable lodgings?
7. The disciples will be at the mercy of the hospitality of others. Would that be hard for you?

**Day 3: Read Mark 6:9–13.**

8. Think about verse 11. Are you responsible for changing people’s hearts, or for telling them the good news?

9. What is the message the apostles bring? (vs. 12)

**Day 4: Read Mark 6:14–29.**

10. Do a “psychological profile” on Herod. What are the things that control him? (Think about verses 16, 20, 22, 26).

11. Do a “psychological profile” on John the Baptist. What controls him? (Think about verses 18, 20 )

12. Examine yourself: what controls *you*?

13. What does Herod’s paranoia in verse 16 show about the work of guilt and unconfessed sin in the human heart? (Psalm 32:3–4) How do you get free of guilt and fear that controls you? (John 8:36; Psalm 32:5)

**Day 5: Read Mark 6:14–29.**

14. What did John the Baptist have the courage to say to the king? (vs. 18) Do you think any other people were doing that for Herod? What does flattery do to people? (Prov.29:5)

15. Jesus (vs. 4), the apostles (vs. 12), and John (vs. 18) all were unusual in their generation in that they spoke hard truths to people. What gave them the courage? (Consider John 5:44)

16. What is the right way to approach the unpleasant task of speaking a hard truth to someone? (Ephesians 4:15) Have you ever done it? Do you appreciate it when someone does it to you?

17. John was in prison and Herod was king. After reading their stories, which one do you think was the free man? Why?

18. As you examine your own soul, are you more like Herod or John? How can you live a life without fear starting today?