

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KING
A Study of the Gospel According to Mark
Mark 6:1–29

Holy Bible, New International Version ©2011

"He was amazed at their lack of faith." Mark 6:6

Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your heart to his word.

Read through this week's passage and jot down any thoughts and questions you may have.

Read Mark 6:1–6a.

1. In this passage, Jesus goes to his hometown along with his disciples. What conflicting reactions do the townspeople have after he teaches in the synagogue? (vv. 2–3)
2. What do the townspeople's questions reveal about their opinion of Jesus? (vv. 2b–3)
3. Why is it that Jesus, though all powerful, "could not do many miracles there" (v.5)? (Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6–7)
4. Why do you think the townspeople are not able to see Jesus for who he is? (Consider Mark 4:12, Matthew 22:29, John 7:24, and John 15:25.)

Read Mark 6:6b–13.

5. Jesus sends out the Twelve with minimal supplies on this first evangelism trip. What might they learn from this experience?
6. Describe a time in your life when God provided what you needed to serve Him when you felt short on resources.

7. Jesus sends out the Twelve “two by two” (v. 7).
a. What is the message they preach? (v. 12)

- b. What power does Jesus give them? (vv. 7, 13)

In the face of rejection:
The shaking of the dust from their feet may be understood in the light of the Jewish custom of removing carefully the dust from both clothes and feet before reentering Jewish territory. For the Jews, heathen dust was defiling. The significance of the act here is to declare the place to be heathen and to make it clear that those who rejected the message must now answer for themselves...The disciples' message, like that of Jesus, brings judgment as well as salvation."¹

- c. Two thousand years later, we also have a message to share. How is our message similar to and different from theirs? (Matthew 28:19–20; 1 Corinthians 15:1–5, 22)

8. Jesus warns the Twelve that their message may not always be received (v. 11). What gives you confidence to share the message even though it might not be well received? (Consider Matthew 10:18–20 and 26–28.)

Read Mark 6:14–29.

9. John the Baptist's death has already occurred when Herod hears about Jesus.
a. What are people saying about who Jesus is? (vv. 14b–15)

- b. Which version does Herod believe? (v. 16)

10. Mark then proceeds to tell the tragic story of John's death. What is your reaction to it?

11. Most people would not have the courage to confront a king, but instead would try to flatter him for their own gain. What does John the Baptist have the courage to say to the king? (v. 18)
12. Herod allows himself to be trapped by his own boasting (v. 26). Why is it important that we maintain a right view of ourselves and be careful in our speech? (Philippians 2:3–4; James 3:5; 1 Peter 3:10)
13. Jesus (v. 4), the apostles (v. 12), and John (v. 18) courageously spoke the message God had given them. Ask God to equip you to do the same. (Meditate on Romans 8:31–39 and Hebrews 12:2–3.)

“Christians in many parts of today’s world still face torture and death for their **faith**. ...The God who called and equipped John and Jesus, and who through them confronted Herod and by implication all other rulers, remains sovereign. ...This God will vindicate and reward those who remain faithful to their calling in the face of intimidation, persecution, and death itself.”²