

THE MINISTRY OF GOD'S DISCIPLES

MARK 6:7-29

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The Commission of the 12 disciples

- Jesus sent them out in _____ (7)
- Instructions for their short-term mission trip (8-11)
- The message of _____ was to be preached (12)

The repentance ministry of John the Baptist

- Synopsis of John's _____ (14-29)
- The _____ example of King Herod (14-29)
- The _____ example of John the Baptist

Three outcomes of our service to God in proclaiming the gospel

- Our gospel message may fall on unbelieving ears, be highly successful, and can lead to our death.

Mark 6:7-29

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.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are for further study and application of today's text of Scripture. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. One of the best ways to grow as a disciple is by discussing these types of questions in a small group. Find a small group here: gracebiblecw.com/lifegroup or ask someone next to you if you can join their group!

1. Read Matthew 9:36 and Proverbs 24:11. Jesus felt deep compassion for lost sheep. Why is it important for us to have this same compassion for the lost? What can you do to develop compassion?
2. Jesus had his garden of gethsemane experience noted in Matthew 26:36-46 where in prayer God gave Him the strength to complete His mission at the cross. Have you had a garden of gethsemane experience in prayer that gave you strength to complete his mission for you? When can you plan for this time of prayer?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 where it talks about the benefit of having another person shoulder your spiritual labor. Can you share an example of this in your life? If not, what can you do to plan to work together with other saints for the sake of the gospel?
4. Jesus was specific that the disciple's mission in this passage was to preach repentance. Why is this important to explain to and challenge the lost before we share the wonderful news about what Jesus did for us to save us?
5. Explain how to repent and believe in faith are two sides of the same coin of salvation. Some might say repentance is a work and thus could not be part of believing the gospel. Repentance isn't a human work to earn salvation, but it is an internal change of mind about sin and Jesus enabled by God's grace seen in Ephesians 2:8-9. True biblical repentance is a gift of grace granted by God as seen in Acts 11:18, 2 Peter 3:9, and Romans 2:4. Any turning from sin is fruit or evidence of genuine repentance, not the cause of salvation, which remains solely God's grace.
6. King Herod seemed like an important person. How did the fear of man affect him? Can the fear of man put up a barrier in your life from following God fully?
7. Most of us today may struggle to be ready to become a martyr like John the Baptist and the disciples. How will God enable you to stand up for Him when the time comes in our lives? How will counting the cost affect your daily life from this day forward?

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.