

Discussion Guide

Week of January 6, 2013

Mark 6:7-13

Passage Overview:

In Mark 6 we see Jesus rejected by the world despite the fact that he is the King ushering in God's kingdom. He tells his disciples that as they live out the gospel on mission they should expect to be rejected as well (v11). And his forerunner—John the Baptist—is not only rejected, but executed (vv27-28). The overarching theme of Mark 6 is that the rejection of Jesus and his followers is normal.

Understanding God's Word—Read Mark 6:7-13.

- Like Jesus, the disciples are to proclaim repentance (v12), cast out unclean spirits (v7), and heal (v13). What is Jesus' purpose in sending out his disciples?
- What is Jesus preparing his followers for? What kind of response should the disciples expect?

Living and Applying God's Word

- In vv7-13, Jesus is not simply giving his followers direction for the mission he is sending them on, but he is getting them ready to experience rejection just as he was rejected in his hometown (6:1-6) and John the Baptist was rejected and executed (6:14-29). Let's think in terms of Christian evangelism...
 - How were the disciples organized (v7)? Why? What are the problems of "lone ranger" Christianity?
 - The disciples were to rely on the hospitality of those to whom they preached (v8). How did this make them accountable to the people and transparent before them?
 - The disciples helped people practically (v13—anoointed many sick people). How can addressing felt needs open people to gospel truth?
- Why do you think Jesus told the disciples (vv8-9) not to take anything for the journey? How would you feel about this? How can a large amount of worldly goods discourage living on mission with the gospel? See 1 Timothy 6:6-12.

Turning to God in Faith and Repentance

- How could you be someone who "travels light" through life, always ready to take any opportunity that might arise to live out the gospel?
- When we look closely at these verses we see a remarkably balanced picture. On the one hand we must be servants, living transparently among people who don't believe, trusting and respecting them and sacrificing for them. On the other hand, we must have the courage to tell the truth about Christ. What steps could you take to better share and proclaim the gospel to those around you?
- What does it mean for us that we follow a rejected King? Why is Jesus' kingship a greater threat to people than that of worldly kings? How will our hearers respond to this?
 - In what way is Jesus' coming different to that of worldly kings? What do his enemies think of him (and us)?
 - How does a right understanding of Jesus' rejected kingship help Christians like us face opposition and persecution?

Prayer:

Ask God to give peace, joy, and hope to persecuted Christians around the world. Pray that God will enable you to live on mission with the gospel, despite the persecution that often comes with living this way. Pray also for David Blanchard as he serves with Impact 360 in Brazil.

Announcements

- Men's Lunch (Jan. 8, noon) (springer@insidecrosspointe.com)
- Ladies' Lunch (Jan. 15, noon) (sigourney@insidecrosspointe.com)
- "One Another" Member Meeting (Jan. 13, 6-7:30 p.m.)
- Missions Conference (Jan. 25-27)
- Water Baptism (Feb. 10) (wayne@insidecrosspointe.com)