

Mark 6.1-29

Good News...All the Time!

Interesting Verse Shows UPSIDE DOWN LOGIC of GOD'S KINGDOM

Most People think TROUBLE is SIGN to KEEP MOUTH SHUT! – **not Paul!**

Apostle Paul: “I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has *opened* to me, and there are many who *oppose* me.”

1 Corinthians 16:8-9

**Today's Text** in Mark > Paul GOT IDEA from JESUS – Preach amidst Problems!

1. Rejection of the Messiah

2. Response of Mission

1. Rejection of the Messiah

Text: REJECTION on 2 FRONTS > ‘Home Church’ and ‘Halls of Government’

a. Persecution in the Palace

EVENT happened FIRST > Mark uses LITERARY STYLE of FLASHBACK

Ch 1 BRIEF REFERENCE: After John was put in prison... Mark 1:14

NOW...the REST of the STORY...

Growing EFFECTIVENESS of Jesus and Disciples > INFLUENCE & INTEREST ONLY Story in Gospel that DOES NOT Center on Jesus...**but because of Jesus...**

v. 14 King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known.

1) ‘Prince’ Herod – the ‘Wanna Be’ King

a) Confused

Liked to THINK of Self as KING of Jews > Title NEVER Given to him

Son of KING Herod the Great – Killer of Bethlehem's BABY BOYS –

Pop's Kingdom Land divided into Tetrarchy's for THREE SONS

House of HEROD – Strange Mix of COLD CRUELTY & RELIGIOUS Fanaticism

vs. 14 - 16 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!"

Time of EXPECTANCY and IGNORANCE: Even THEN MEDIA got it WRONG!

John did NO MIRACLES > John never performed a miraculous sign John 10:41  
**MAYBE** NOW in RISEN BODY he WOULD?? > Lots of Twisted THEOLOGY!

LAST Chapter of OT: "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes." Malachi 4:5

**Maybe** Jesus IS Elijah – Powerful WORDS and WORKS LIKE Elijah

**MAYBE** it is IMPORTANT ENOUGH you FIND OUT FOR SURE!!  
 KNOWING who JESUS REALLY IS – an ETERNALLY Important ISSUE

b) Careless

- Capital: Chose to Build in TIBERIAS – Ancient JEWISH CEMETARY

No Good Jew LIVE in PERPETUALLY Ceremonially UNCLEAN AREA

- Marriage

v. 17 Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married > his NIECE

BLATANT Disregard for MOSAIC Law: "Do not have sexual relations with your brother's wife; that would dishonor your brother." Leviticus 18:16

- Dirty Dancer

vs. 21,22 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...

Some Ask: DID this REALLY Happen? – Lewd Dancing in Palace of Jews?

A GOOD JEW Would NEVER Allow This // ‘Persian Orgy’ like story of ESTHER

Herod had NO TIME for the PROPHETS > He had to prepare a Big PARTY!

Eager to IMPRESS > high officials - military commanders - leading men

**The WHO’s WHO of Herod’s TETRARCHY were There**

c) Conflicted

v. 20 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.

John WAS Impressive: Perhaps 1<sup>st</sup> REAL MAN Herod ever Met, Brave, Righteous

**PUZZLED** > Word of God not for SPECULATION but for SALVATION

God did NOT come to ENTERTAIN but to EDUCATE us of our NEED for HIM

What may in origin have been genuine religious feelings on the part of Herod had dwindled into a mere craving for the sensational and spectacular. This craving God never creates, and so he does not satisfy it, though it is at times a dangerous temptation to the church. Spiritual life cannot be nurtured on thrills alone. R. Alan Cole

Couple Years Later – HEROD Eager to LISTEN to JESUS...

When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, *but Jesus gave him no answer.*

Luke 23:8-9

H’s GUILT was FULL, No More INFO NEEDED > Jesus NOT Court JESTER

Not enough to KILL JOHN – NOW agrees to KILL ONE whom JOHN SERVED

The lesson is crystal clear. Unless we silence sin, sin will silence conscience.  
 Unless we heed God's word, the day may come when we despise God's Son – and  
 then God will have nothing more to say to us. Sinclair Ferguson

#### d) Controlled

- Wife – History tells she was PUSHER // much like ELIJAH and JEZEBEL  
 v. 17 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.

CONTROLLED by UNTAMABLE LUST for Herodias the Now-fading Hottie!

- Pride  
 v. 26 The king was *greatly distressed*, but because of his *oaths* and his dinner  
*guests*, he did not want to refuse her.

**'greatly distressed'** = Word for DEEPEST GRIEF > Same as Jesus in Gethsemane  
 Jesus: "My soul is *overwhelmed with sorrow* to the point of death" Mark 14:34

Sin never exists in Isolation: Herod –Adulterer & Full of Self-Importance & Pride  
 PRIDE trumped his PAIN > Could KILL John, but NOT his SELF-IMPORTANCE

#### 2) Faithful Prophet: John the Baptizer

EVERYONE Talking about Herod the Bad Boy: Only John Talked to His FACE

v. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your  
 brother's wife."

John 'PREACHED REPENTANCE' not SUPERFICIAL, Bland GENERALITIES  
 BRAVELY went where no MILKTOAST Preacher DARED Go: Perversion in Palace

## 2 PASSION NARRATIVES in Mark's Gospel > John points to the CROSS!

Jesus to Disciples: "I tell you, *Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished*, just as it is written about him." Mark 9:13

**Warning:** You want to Preach Powerfully in the Palace...may get PLATTERED!

### 3) Salome – Everyone's Favorite Dancing Girl

v. 22,23 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."

OLD Story: Woman uses her BODY to Please Men and GET's NOTHING from It!  
Well...she DID get 2 Things...

**Shame** – EXPOSED herself in Room full of ALCOHOL and TESTOSTERONE

**Stained** – BLOOD of God's Righteous Servant SPOILED her PRETTY DRESS

*'Gee Mom, thanks for thinking of me: Education, Land, Riches, Travel!'*

*'This guy's head is a great reward for my Shame and Stains!'*

### 4) Herodias – Caution: Don't Get on her Bad Side!

v. 19 So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him.

HERODIAN Family Tree: Many branches of MURDER and INCEST...ONE more.

vs. 27,28 an executioner...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.

The only place where Herodias' marriage certificate could safely be written was on the back of the death warrant of John. T.W. Manson

REVENGE may appear SWEET > but soon leaves BITTER Taste of REGRET

Mark's SNAPSHOT of Ancient Palace: looks like MODERN Halls of Gov't Today  
EVERY NATION repres. Here: DIRTY SKELETONS of Sin in Closet of Gov't

## b. Hostility at Home

To (*NAZ: Mark Not say*) > FORMER Hometown > NOW he lives in Capernaum  
Previous Visit Home – RUN out of Town

All the people in the synagogue (*in Nazareth*) were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee...

Luke 4:28-31

Time Passed > but NOW finds them NO MORE RESPONSIVE to Him

### 1) Access

v. 3 "Isn't this the carpenter?... Aren't his sisters here with us?"

People of NAZARETH > UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY to Meet Jesus

1. Son of God LIVED Among them MOST of His 30 years before Ministry Began
2. Jesus had PREACHED the WORD of God to Them with POWER
3. Jesus had PERFORMED MIRACLES in their Midst
4. Now He RETURNS to People that DROVE Him Away under Threat of DEATH

## 2) Astonished

v. 2 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!"

Do NOT Know his TEXT or his TOPIC > but it was TREMENDOUS!

MINISTRY of Jesus > WORDS and WORKS of AUTHORITY and POWER!

Never before were such WONDERS and WISDOM in ONE Man

## 3) Annoyed

vs. 3,4 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."

GOOD QUESTION – **Source of Authority** – but they're NOT OPEN to ANSWER

Could NOT Tolerate one of THEIR OWN being SO DIFFERENT from THEM!

Hometown Folks > BLINDED by their JEALOUSY

Familiarity breeds contempt.

Publius the Syrian 2 B.C.

DANGEROUS Idea > Familiar Friends Despised? Familiar Spouse Abandoned?

The contempt shown by the Nazarenes said nothing about Jesus Christ, but it said a great deal about them!

Warren Wiersbe

Tourist at Famous ART GALLERY > RUSHED from One PICTURE to the NEXT Said to GUARD > "I did not see anything special here!"

Guard: "Sir, it is not the pictures that are on trial here – it is the VISITORS!"

Expert – Someone who has Traveled more than 50 Miles with BRIEFCASE

Question HIS LEGITIMACY: v. 3 Isn't this Mary's son...? / DISin' Jesus & Father  
Power not as Son of Mary from Nazareth but as SON of GOD from HEAVEN

#### 4) Abandoned

v. 5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.

No MIRACLES > Emph NOT on Jesus' INABILITY, but their UNWORTHINESS  
He was ABLE, He DID HEAL SOME! But VERY FEW CARED to Believe

Jesus: "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces." Matt 7:6

The performance of miracles in the absence of faith could have resulted only in the aggravation of human guilt and the hardening of men's hearts against God.

William Lane

"Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you-and even more."  
Mark 4.24

**KINGDOM Principle – More gets More, Less gets Less**

Giving of TALENTS – 1,5,10 – Guy with 1 who HOARDED, LOST Everything  
Guys with 5 & 10 – DOUBLED Blessings – AND Still GOT MORE!!

**DANGER: Falling into TAILSPIN of DOUBT & DISOBEDIENCE – Get's Worse**

"...the time is near. Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy."  
Revelation 22:10-11



After 22 Chapters of John's Glorious VISION of Jesus – 65 Books of Scripture  
IF YOU can't be COMPELLED to REPENT & BELIEVE – Just GO TO HELL!

Other Hand – If you've been HOLDING ON to HOLY ONE – Don't Let go Now!!

BLESSING: Striving BY GRACE to WALK with & WORSHIP Him – Only Better  
From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. *John 1:16*

Where the kingdom of God is rejected it is inappropriate for the King to share its  
new life and joy. Sinclair Ferguson

5) Amazed v. 6 And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

12 X's in Mark > People are AMAZED at Jesus / Only 1 X's HE is Amazed

Central Theme of this Section UNBELIEF of those who MET Jesus

PERHAPS last visit home to Nazareth > NO MORE Recorded in Scripture

"Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be  
taken from him." Mark 4.25

## 2. Response of Mission

### a. Fearless

For MOST of US > ATTACK leads to WITHDRAWAL // Jesus > ADVANCE!

vs. 6,7 And he was amazed at their lack of faith. *Then* Jesus went around teaching  
from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out...

Old Story – 2 Shoe Salesman arrive in Town where EVERYONE is BAREFOOT!

1. Writes to HQ: 'Don't send any shoes, no one here wears them....'

2. Writes: 'Send all the shoes you can...Everyone NEEDS them!'

NO Matter what GOV'T Says...or RELIGIOUS Leaders Do...Jesus will PREACH!  
 More AFRAID FOR people who are LOST than AFRAID OF them

**A safe church is rarely an influential one.**

**MOST FEARLESS One > Jesus / Entrust Work of Mission in THEIR HANDS**  
 His REPUTATION will be RESPONSIBILITY of these DIM-WITS!

- Do NOT UNDERSTAND His TEACHING

When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables.

Mark 4:10

- Do NOT TRUST His PROTECTION

The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

Mark 4:38

- Do NOT BELIEVE His PERCEPTION

"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

Mark 5:31

HOW will they LEARN to TRUST?? Throw them in DEEP End, Let them Swim!

## b. Faithful

v. 7 Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority

Mark 1:22

the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins

Mark 2:10

INHERENT Conflict between GOSPEL & GOVERNMENT > AUTHORITY

Christians COMMANDED to RESPECT & OBEY & PRAY for GOV'T LEADER  
At Same Time CONFESS > ONLY RIGHTFUL AUTHORITY belongs to JESUS

Jesus prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For *you granted him authority over all people* that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him." John 17:1-2

EFFECTIVENESS in MINISTRY comes from our CONNECTEDNESS to Jesus

He appointed twelve-designating them apostles - *that they might be with him* and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons. Mark 3:14-15

Whatever they do will be effective only in so far as it is an extension of his work. They had no natural authority over evil spirits. He had. Donald English

They did the WORKS of their Master and Preached the WORDS of their Lord

Great JOY to HEAR Word Preached and SEE Kingdom Signs

GREATER Joy and Satisfaction to DO Preaching and BE the SIGN

vs. 12,13 They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

PREACHING, EXORCISM, HEALING / Restoring WHOLENESS: Body & Soul  
OIL // like PILLS from APTEKA > DIRECTLY or INDIRECTLY Jesus HEALS!

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Mark 6:30

### c. Flexible

vs. 8,9 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.

**NOT NEED EXTRA BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE!! – STUFF fit in BACKPACK!**

Sense of **URGENCY** led to Service with **FLEXIBILITY**

Healthy **BALANCE** between > **TRADITION** and **TRANSFORMATION**

**URGENCY** of Task – Should make us **CONSTANTLY EVALUATE**

Best Ways – Best People – Best Use of Resources: to **ADVANCE** Kingdom of God

The early church learned from Jesus' example, it kept a proper balance between a fearless perseverance and a foolish persistence.

Sinclair Ferguson

### d. Focused

v. 10 Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town.

When you **DON'T LIKE YOUR LIVING STYLE** > Don't Look for **UPGRADE!**

Jesus did **NOT** Send them to be **PAMPERED** but to **PREACH!**

There **WERE** times for **REST** – Now time for **MISSION**, not **MINTS** on Pillows!

Want Village to Know Visit will be **BRIEF** > They must **RESPOND NOW!**

Kingdom preachers were expected to live by the kingdom message they proclaimed.

Donald English

### e. Firm

v. 11 "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."

Humble Persistence – Do all you can to be HEARD! – but Never Force the Hearing

Preaching Christ is JOYOUS TASK – but NEVER a JOKE – Eternally Serious!  
Shaking Dust > What GOOD JEW did when passing thru GENTILE LANDS

Jesus was saying that a town which was geographically within the sphere of God's covenant might spiritually be a stranger to it. Sinclair Ferguson

HISTORICAL EVENT > Not TIMELESS MANDATE > Except take SANDALS!  
NEVER Can FIND Decent Pair of BIG SHOES for my Feet here in ASIA!

Enduring Principles of Mission

1. Preach the Gospel all the time.

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season... 2 Timothy 4.2

2. Trust God to meet all your needs.

My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4.19

3. Love people more than things.

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.  
Matthew 6:24

4. Do not wear out your host's welcome!

How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?  
Proverb 6.9

Blair Family - 3 NIGHT Rule – by then we'd EATEN all their FOOD Anyway!

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## Mark 6

6:1 Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. 2 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! 3 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. 4 Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." 5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. 7 Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. 8 These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff-no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. 9 Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. 10 Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. 11 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." 12 They went out and preached that people should repent. 13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them. 14 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." 15 Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." 16 But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!" 17 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. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, 20 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. 21 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. 22 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." 23 And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom." 24 She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered. 25 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." 26 The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27 So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, 28 and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. 29 On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.