

**22S46 Mark 6:1-32 (Part 12)**

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 6:1-32; Teaching at Nazareth, the Twelve Sent Out, the death of John the baptizer.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let's read Mark 6:1-32 (NAS) <sup>1</sup>*Jesus went out from there and came into His hometown; and His disciples followed Him.* <sup>2</sup>*And when the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man learn these things, and what is this wisdom that has been given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?"* <sup>3</sup>*Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are His sisters not here with us?"* And they took offense at Him. <sup>4</sup>*Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not dishonored except in his hometown and among his own relatives, and in his own household."* <sup>5</sup>*And He could not do any miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.* <sup>6</sup>*And He was amazed at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages, teaching.* <sup>7</sup>*And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits;* <sup>8</sup>*and He instructed them that they were to take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belt—* <sup>9</sup>*but to wear sandals; and He added, "Do not wear two tunics."* <sup>10</sup>*And He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town.* <sup>11</sup>*Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off the soles of your feet as a testimony against them."* <sup>12</sup>*And they went out and preached that people are to repent.* <sup>13</sup>*And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.* <sup>14</sup>*And King Herod heard about it, for His name had become well known; and people were saying, "John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him."* <sup>15</sup>*But others were saying, "He is Elijah."* And others were saying, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup>*But when Herod heard about it, he kept saying, "John, whom I beheaded, has risen!"* <sup>17</sup>*For Herod himself had sent men and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her.* <sup>18</sup>*For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your*

brother's wife." <sup>19</sup>And Herodias held a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death, and could not do so; <sup>20</sup>for Herod was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he had been protecting him. And when he heard him, he was very perplexed; and yet he used to enjoy listening to him. <sup>21</sup>An opportune day came when Herod, on his birthday, held a banquet for his nobles and military commanders, and the leading people of Galilee; <sup>22</sup>and when the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you." <sup>23</sup>And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you, up to half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup>And she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." <sup>25</sup>Immediately she came in a hurry to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup>And although the king was very sorry, because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he was unwilling to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded him to bring back his head. And he went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup>and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard about this, they came and carried away his body, and laid it in a tomb. <sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a little while." (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.) <sup>32</sup>And they went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves.

**Let's pray.** Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 6:1-3 (NAS) <sup>1</sup>Jesus went out from there and came into His hometown; and His disciples followed Him. <sup>2</sup>And when the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man learn these things, and what is this wisdom that has been given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? <sup>3</sup>Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are His sisters not here with us?" And they took offense at Him.

Jesus offend them. Why does he offend them? Because they know him and his family. He comes from apparent humble beginnings. Even though His wisdom is obvious, they are offended because this is coming from Jesus. They are just offended to be offended.

Mark 5:4-6 (NAS) <sup>4</sup>Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not dishonored except in his hometown and among his own relatives, and in his own household." <sup>5</sup>And He could not do any miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup>And He was amazed at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages, teaching. Jesus again gives us a truth. A prophet is dishonored by the people that know him the best. So why could Jesus only do a few miracles in Nazareth. It's not that He

could not. The unbelief of the people just made Jesus not wish to perform miracles. People needing healing did not believe, so Jesus did not heal them. It's really that simple. How can we expect Jesus to do things for us, if we don't believe He can do it. It's not that He can't, it's all about our heart, not His.

Let's read on, Mark 6:7-13 (NAS) *<sup>7</sup>And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits; <sup>8</sup>and He instructed them that they were to take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff - no bread, no bag, no money in their belt - <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals; and He added, "Do not wear two tunics."<sup>10</sup>And He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. <sup>11</sup>Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off the soles of your feet as a testimony against them."<sup>12</sup>And they went out and preached that people are to repent. <sup>13</sup>And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.* This is a very amazing sequence, Jesus sends His inner most circle of disciples, the twelve, out to tell people Jesus is here. Repent and believe the good news of the kingdom of God. They are to share the good news and if it is not receive, shake the dust off their feet. We are commanded by Jesus to share His words and testimony, but we are not responsible for how people receive it. We just need to be obedient to Jesus, then leave the rest up to Him.

Next Mark 6:14-16 (NAS) *<sup>14</sup>And King Herod heard about it, for His name had become well known; and people were saying, "John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him."<sup>15</sup>But others were saying, "He is Elijah." And others were saying, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."<sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard about it, he kept saying, "John, whom I beheaded, has risen*

This is a bit of a side story here in Mark. King Herod had killed John the Baptist and now was scared Jesus was a resurrected John the Baptist or another prophet. Now Mark tells us the story surrounding the death of John the Baptist. Mark 6:17-29 (NAS) *<sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had sent men and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her. <sup>18</sup>For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."<sup>19</sup>And Herodias held a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death, and could not do so; <sup>20</sup>for Herod was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he had been protecting him. And when he heard him, he was very perplexed; and yet he used to enjoy listening to him. <sup>21</sup>An opportune day came when Herod, on his birthday, held a banquet for his nobles and military commanders, and the leading people of Galilee; <sup>22</sup>and when the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you."<sup>23</sup>And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you, up to half of my kingdom."<sup>24</sup>And she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist."<sup>25</sup>Immediately she came in a hurry to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."<sup>26</sup>And although the king was very sorry, because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he was unwilling to refuse her.*

*27Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded him to bring back his head. And he went and beheaded him in the prison, 28and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. 29When his disciples heard about this, they came and carried away his body, and laid it in a tomb.*

We could spend a lot of time on this story, but for today let's just say how crazy this was. It points to how deprived the time was that Jesus lived. The stepdaughter of the king dances for the king, then as a reward she asks for someone to be killed and his head on a platter. But this is how John the Baptist died and the circumstances of his death. Now Mark gets back to the primary story line in this section which is the twelve disciples being sent out to proclaim the kingdom of God. Mark 6:30-32 (NAS) *30The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught. 31And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a little while." (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.) 32And they went away in the boat to a secluded place by themselves.*

So they come back and report all that happened to Jesus and each other, then Jesus takes them away by themselves for rest and I'm sure more teaching.

Let's review.

- 1) Nazareth? Why was Jesus so poorly received in His hometown of Nazareth. They thought they knew Him. They were offended by His wisdom because they knew his mother and brothers and sisters.
- 2) Sending the 12? Jesus sends His inner most circle of disciples are a field trip. They go out into the cities and villages to proclaim the kingdom of God is at hand , repent and believe the good news. We don't have the accounts only what Jesus said to do when they were rejected. So I would suspect they had both success and rejection along the way.
- 3) Herod? King Herod. This is King Herod Antipas who was the Roman appointed ruler of Galilee on the west-side of the sea of Galilee. Herod Antipas had married his brother Philip's wife Herodias. Philip was the Roman appointed ruler of the region on the east-side of the sea of Galilee. The history of the Herod's is like a modern soap opera. But here in Mark, this side story tells us about the death of John the Baptist.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

Let me leave you with a couple things today. If you have just become a Christian and the people that knew you all your life don't believe you have changed. It's okay. They knew the old you, not the new you. Just keep living the way Jesus wants you to live and don't worry if your "new life" offends some of the people that think they know you.

And Jesus is asking every one of us to do things for the kingdom of God. You don't have to worry about the outcomes, only be obedient. Jesus told His disciples how to handle rejection, because He knew sometimes, they and us would be rejected. God is the one who defines success, just keep doing what Jesus wants you to do and leave the rest up to God.

What does this mean for you? When you feel God urging you to do something, do it. Don't worry what other people are going to say. Be obedient to God. This can be as simple as, you see someone struggling to carry something. Stop and help. When they thank you, thank God. Say something like, I'm glad God made a way so I could help you or Thank you but we should both thank Jesus who sent me. It might seem awkward at first but this is part of putting Jesus first and other people second. If you ever see one of our PUNLA T-shirts, this is on the back.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.



***“...let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth” – 1 John 3:18***