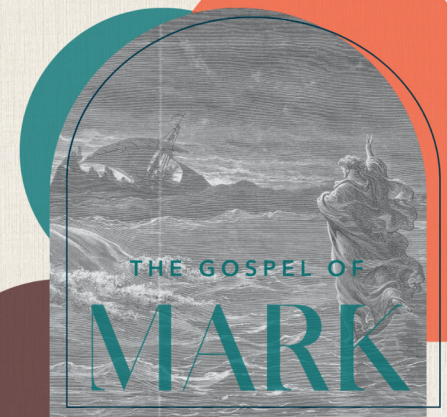


October 15, 2023

CLASH OF KINGDOMS

Pastor Roger Poupart // Mark 6:14-29



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



14 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." 15 But others were saying, "He is Elijah." And others were saying, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." 16 But when Herod heard about it, he kept saying, "John, whom I beheaded, has risen!" 17 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. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 And Herodias held a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death, and could not do so; 20 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. 21 An opportune day came when Herod, on his birthday, held a banquet for his nobles and military commanders, and the leading people of Galilee; 22 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." 23 And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you, up to half of my kingdom." 24 And she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." 25 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." 26 And although the king was very sorry, because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he was unwilling to refuse her. 27 Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded him to bring back his head. And 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 about this, they came and carried away his body, and laid it in a tomb.



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REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?

- What is your favorite fall activity and why?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

GROW IN THE WORD

01. Jesus' ministry had become so well known that many began to wonder about his true identity. Some believed he was Elijah while others believed he was like an Old Testament prophet. King Herod was convinced that he was John the Baptist resurrected from the dead (v. 14-16).

- How might the different opinions about Jesus have come about? See 2 Kings 5:8-14; 1 Kings 17:17-24.

GROW IN THE WORD

- What are common beliefs today about Jesus' identity? Consider personal opinions as well as cultural views you've heard.

- How would you describe and explain your view of Jesus in two minutes or less?

02. Mark recounted the story of John the Baptist's execution at the hands of Herod. Herod had married his brother's wife, Herodias, and John rebuked him for it. Herodias held a murderous grudge against John. Herod protected John for a time, but was forced to execute him in order to fulfill a promised oath (v. 17-29).

- What stands out most to you from this passage and why? Take note of how this passage relates to the previous section of Scripture also.



GROW IN THE WORD

- In what ways did internal and external pressures influence Herod's actions towards John? Consider Herod's actions in light of Matthew 10:28; Galatians 1:10.

- How does the story of John's death encourage, challenge, or impact you as you seek to follow Jesus faithfully?

UPCOMING EVENTS

HYMN SING

Sunday, October 22 | 5 pm | Fellowship Hall

Come join us for an evening filled with prayer, scripture reading, and worship as we sing some of the great hymns of the faith. All are invited and registration is not required.

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

October 29 | 12:15 pm | Worship Center

Members are asked to join us as we vote on the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws that were presented at our last meeting. You can view the proposed amendments online.

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

You can use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each member get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Share something you are celebrating this week.
- Ask the second question in the Connect section of the passage guide and give each person a chance to respond.

GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Read each section of Scripture you are focusing on prior to discussion.
- Refer to the first two questions from each section. Read any of the cross-references together and discuss.

ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Take time to consider and discuss the last question from each section. Both questions are intended to point your group to apply the text to your lives.
- Close group time by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.