

Gospel of Mark

Lesson 30 “The Death of John the Baptist”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on “The Gospel of Mark” this morning.

A. Review - This series comes from **Galatians 2:20**. It’s now Christ living in us so in order for us to understand how He lives in us, it’s helpful to study how He lived on earth.

B. Last week, we studied on of Jesus’s greatest achievements as He sent out the 12 apostles in power to go preach the kingdom, heal the sick, and cast out demons.

1. Jesus duplicated Himself in the twelve and then the seventy. When they returned victorious, He declared, “I saw Satan fall like lightning. By replicating Himself in others, Jesus reduced Satan’s influence on the earth.
2. Today, we’ll see Satan strike by having John the Baptist killed through King Herod—snuffing out John’s flame and sending a warning meant to intimidate Jesus from fulfilling His mission. We will also see how Jesus overcame this attack so He could continue with His mission.
3. The lesson to us is learning how to overcome the counter-attack of the enemy.

II. The Death of John the Baptist

A. **Mark 6:14-32**

1. **Verses 14-16** These verses make it clear that John the Baptist had been for some time, but Jesus did not know it yet. After Jesus sent out the 12 in power, King Herod (King of Galilee and Perea) thought John the Baptist had resurrected (John was remarkable. Greatest prophet born of women **Luke 7:28**). **Luke 9:9** tells us Herod sent to meet Jesus after He heard of all these signs. **This demonstrates how miracles, signs, and wonders are a dinner bell that get people’s attention to want to meet God.**
2. **Verses 17-29** describe why and how John was killed.
 - a. **Leviticus 20:21** forbids marrying your brother’s wife. According to history Herod was a half Jew and should have known better.
 - b. John called him out on his sin and got arrested.. (While God is love we must also tell people the truth about their lifestyle). **FYI: some people you invite to church may criticize you. That’s ok. Woe to you when all people speak well of you. Rejection comes with the territory of being a Christian.** Ex: My Easter story
 - c. **Verse 20** It’s ironic Herod liked listening to John preach, yet he didn’t change. As far as we know Herod is in hell. If you are in here and like listening by want to put off giving your life to the Lord you are making a grave mistake. **2 Corinthians 6:2** *today is the day of salvation!*

d. **Verses 21-26** are a reason why we all need to learn to operate in the fruit of self control.

i. Lust caused Herod to make a rash oath and then he ended up having to execute John the Baptist.

ii. Just because we are under grace, we shouldn't play with sin.

Ex: Dean Hawk pithon. Pithon's squeeze the life out of their victim before they realize it. Sin can do the same to us.

e. **Verses 27-29** After John was beheaded his disciples came and laid his corpse in a tomb. After this, John's disciples went and told Jesus - **Matthew 14:12.**

3. **Verses 30** Simultaneous to getting some of the best news in His life (Jesus had replicated Himself in the disciples, He got some of the worst news of His life - John the Baptist (his friend, forerunner who prepared the way for Jesus) had been brutally executed. This had to have a profound impact on Jesus:

a. Grief for John.

b. Fear He could be next. Many theologians believe the reason Jesus departed to a deserted place was to get away from Herod was seeking to kill Him - **Luke 9:9.**

c. He had to come face to face with His own destiny. John's death had to be reminder that Jesus too would be brutally executed. Surely being a man of the word, He was familiar with prophecies about His death.

i. **Psalms 22:16** Crucifixion wasn't even invented when this Psalm written.

ii. **Isaiah 53:3-5**

It's one things to know how you are going to die in theory, it's another thing to come face to face with that reality.

d. **Verses 31-32** So how did Jesus respond? By going to a deserted place with His disciples, likely pouring out His heart to the Father and meditating on the promises of His resurrection.

i. **Psalms 16:10**

ii. **Isaiah 53:10-12**

e. The way to overcome adversity and the counterattack of the devil is meditate the promises about our destiny and go tour Father in prayer!

f. Tim Rabalais testimony video

III. Conclusion - John's death could have discouraged and stopped meant Jesus, but He overcame by going to the Father and pouring out His heart and let God speak back the promises to Him. We should same do the same—pour out our heart to God in setbacks and let His presence and promises strengthen us to keep moving forward.

A. Response

B. Closing Prayer