

# MARK 6:1-29

## OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. Where does Jesus go? Who accompanies him? What is the response to him? How did Jesus respond to them (vs 1-6)?
2. Verses 7-13: List the things that Jesus tells the twelve as he sends them out. What instructions does he give? What is the message that they preached? What did they do?
3. Who did Herod think Jesus was?
4. Why was John arrested?
5. What did Herod think of John the Baptist? Why did Herod have him killed?

## INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Why are the people offended at Jesus? He seems to astonish them with his wisdom and by his works, yet they respond negatively to him, why don't they believe in him?
2. Why was Jesus unable to do many miracles there?
3. What was the purpose of the sending out of the twelve? Why does he send them in pairs? Note the other instructions. What was the purpose of these instructions?
4. Compare the message and activity of the twelve on this mission with the message of Jesus and John (1:4, 14, 15; 34; 3:13-15). What is the correlation between this sending and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)?
5. What kind of a man is Herod? Look up Luke 3:1, 18-21; Matthew 14:1-12; Luke 9:7-9; Luke 23:7-12; Acts 4:27. What do we learn about him?
6. Why does Herod kill John (what is his motivation, do not recount circumstances)?

## APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. In what areas of our lives has unbelief hindered the work of God? Has there ever been a time when you did not take seriously the message of someone simply because you knew him when he was growing up?
2. Jesus gave his disciples authority. Do you think Jesus has given you authority? What authority has Jesus given you and what does it enable you to do? Are you taking advantage of it?
3. Herod makes a promise and then feels he must keep the promise even though it means killing someone. He is not being true to a conviction but is trying to save face with the people at the party. Do you struggle with violating principle when your pride is at stake? Remember a time when you were tempted to be like Herod (when you chose to look good with the group rather than do what was right) and share it with the group?

## ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.