

Faithful to the End

Text: Mark 6:14-29

Context - After Jesus sending out the 12, Mark inserts a story about the death of John the Baptist. Throughout chapter 6, Mark is encouraging the early church readers to endure suffering and persecution.

Main Idea - By the Grace of God, stay faithful to the end.

The example of John the Baptist teaches us to...

1. _____ God and not man (vs. 14-17)

- A. John had no concern for the power and status of Herod Antipas, he clearly honored God more than man.
- B. The fear of man is an idol, a snare, and a distraction. It paralyzes the Christian's obedience to Jesus.

2. _____ on genuine holiness (vs. 18-21)

- A. John is described as a "righteous and holy man." His walk with God had both a disturbing and a captivating effect on Herod.
- B. Jerry Bridges defines holiness as "nothing less than conformity to the character of God." It is to pursue a life "without sin."

3. _____ the realities of a broken world (vs. 22-29)

- A. John the Baptist was a good and righteous man who followed God and was faithful in his ministry. Yet, he spent two years in prison and was beheaded for his faith.
- B. As we follow Christ, we are not promised a good ending here on earth. Only that what we do for Christ will be rewarded eternally in heaven.