

## John the Baptizer Mk. 6:14-29

### Introduction:

John is a character that we are not told a great deal about, but what we have recorded of him is very important. He is told about in each of the accounts of the Gospel. However, there are only 4 main stories of John. 1) Preparing the way of the Lord. 2) Baptizing Jesus. 3) Sending his disciples to Jesus to find out if He was the Messiah. 4) The death of John (which we look at tonight).

The Greek word, translated commonly as “Baptist,” is the word “baptizo.” The term is used as a descriptive term of John, not a proper name. John’s name would be properly translated as “John the baptizer;” or even more literal as “John the immerser.”

Some have even said (ex. of lady at Maple Court) that they would not belong to a church that did not have John as a member. However, John was never a member of the Lord’s church because he died before the church was established.

Notice some lessons that we can learn from John the baptizer.

### I. John the baptizer had a tremendous reputation (6:14-16, 20).

- A. Jesus and His disciples had been performing miracles.
  - 1. Jesus has just sent out the twelve with great powers (6:13).
  - 2. When Herod heard of Jesus and the miracles done by Him and His disciples, he thought that John had risen from the dead (6:14-16).
  - 3. In fact, Herod “feared John” and “heard him gladly (6:20)
- B. John had a good reputation before Herod because he was faithful to God.
  - 1. Notice what John had accomplished in his life before being arrested.
    - a. Forerunner of Christ (Mk. 1:1-8)
    - b. Baptized Christ (Mk. 1:9-11)
  - 2. The same words that were used to describe Abel could be used to describe John the baptizer.
    - a. Heb 11:4 - and through it he being dead still speaks.
    - b. If we live our life by being faithful to God, the same thing could be said for us as well.
- C. If we live our lives according to the word of God, we will have a good reputation among others because of the kind of people that we are.
  - 1. What kind of reputation are we leaving behind us?

### II. John was not afraid to teach the truth of God, even among persecution (6:17-19).

- A. John knew that he needed to be faithful to God even if Herod did not like the message.
  - 1. John had told Herod that he had no right to marry his brother’s wife (6:18).
  - 2. John understood that being faithful to God was more important than being popular with men.
  - 3. John teaches us that we need to be true to the word of God no matter what happens to us.
- B. We know that anytime the word of God is preached, there will be persecution.

1. Jesus warned the twelve that they would suffer persecution.
  - a. **Mt. 10:16-18, 22**
2. The early church faced great persecution and remained faithful to God.
3. We are told that if we are true to the word of God, we will face persecution.
  - a. **II Tim. 3:12** - Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
4. The persecutions we face today are not as severe as those that the early church faced, but there is still resistance to the word of God.
  - a. In the face of these persecutions, we are promised that God will take care of us.
  - b. **Ps. 34:19** - Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- C. John faced death because of the things he said to Herod.
  1. We may not suffer the way John did, but we still must be faithful to God.

### III. The decisions we make may affect other people for good or for bad (6:21-29).

- A. Because Herodias hated John so much, she had him killed.
  1. The king through a party in which the daughter of Herodias pleased all the men through her dancing.
  2. Herod was so pleased that he offered her anything she wanted, up to half the kingdom.
  3. She asked her mother, Herodias, for advice.
  4. Herodias wanted nothing more than the head of John the baptizer on a platter.
  5. The decision that Herodias made directly affected the life of John.
  6. Indirectly, the decision of Herod to obey the request of the daughter cost John his life.
- B. We also learn in other passages that the life of John affected many for good.
  1. Because of his life, many believed in God.
  2. **John 1:35-42** – Andrew and Peter follow Christ.
  3. **Mt. 11:2-5** - And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples {3} and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" {4} Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: {5} The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them."
  4. Many of the disciples of John became disciples of Christ.
- C. We, also, will have an influence (or affect) on others around us.
  1. Are we influencing others to do good or evil?

#### Conclusion:

The life of John can teach us many things. John teaches us that:

- I. When we do good we will have a good reputation.
- II. Even in the face of persecution, it is important to follow God.
- III. The decisions we make may affect others, for good or bad.