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| 1  Mark 6:1-32  “Death To Self”  08/06/23  INTRO:  Sep. 29, 2022 Pastor John MacArthur of Grace Community Church wrote an open letter to Gavin Newsom for twisting Scripture to support abortion.  For sake of time, only a portion of it  “Sir,  Almighty God says in His Word, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” ([Proverbs 14:34](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Prov%2014.34)). Scripture also teaches that it is the chief duty of any civic leader to reward those who do well and to punish evildoers ([Romans 13:1–7](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Rom%2013.1%E2%80%937)). You have not only failed in that responsibility; you routinely turn it on its head, rewarding evildoers and punishing the righteous. | 2  The Word of God pronounces judgment on those who call evil good and good evil ([Isaiah 5:20](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Isa%205.20)), and yet many of your policies reflect this unholy, upside-down view of honor and morality. The diabolical effects of your worldview are evident in the statistics of California’s epidemics of crime, homelessness, sexual perversions (like homosexuality and transgenderism), and other malignant expressions of human misery that stem directly from corrupt public policy. I don’t need to itemize or elaborate on the many immoral decisions you have perpetrated against God and the people of our state, which have only exacerbated these problems. Nevertheless, my goal in writing is not to contend with your politics, but rather to plead with you to hear and heed what the Word of God says to men in your position.”  No repercussions for John MacArthur personally but some have gotten physical persecution  -Like Pastor James Coates GraceLife Church  Edmonton  -Sent to prison for 35 days  -Some have even lost lives |
| 3  All suffered because Heb. 11 “desiring a better country, a heavenly one”  MAIN POINT:  Mark is going to show you in this text today that following Jesus will come at a cost and that it is not a glamourous ministry. There will be difficulties and to persevere through these difficulties you must die to self and your comforts.  BODY:  We continue our series in the gospel of Mark.  Jesus returns back to his hometown of Nazareth  Their response to him is:  “where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?  “Astonished”=Literally blown away by Jesus | 4  Scornfully/mockingly: “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?”  “carpenter”=mocking his lack of education  “son of Mary”=likely insinuating that He was born of fornication  -You referred to someone by their father  V. 3 “they took offense at him”  -literally “stumbled” by him  Like the hard packed soil, denied the obvious  Where did get this wisdom?!  1 Corinthians 2:7  the mystery which has been hidden but now has been destined for our glory before time began.  2:8  wisdom which *“none of the rulers had understood, for if they had, they would not crucified the lord of glory.”* |
| 5  Truly 1 Cor. 1:23 Christ became a “stumbling block” to the Jews  “Familiarity breeds contempt”  Your own family arguably is hardest people to evangelize because they know who you are.  -Ray Comfort an evangelist said something like,  “I’d rather face a thousand raving atheists than try  to convert my grandma”  Except Jesus was perfect and flawless all His life  V. 5 “He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.”  -Not that He didn’t have power  -But unbelief was so great that it was pointless to  do so  Jesus “marveled” at their unbelief  Theme of Insiders/Outsiders  -Actually second time visiting hometown, first is  Luke 4 | 6  Nothing more scary than unbelief  1 Cor. 10:1-6  *“For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.”*  Verse 7 = commissioning of disciples  Sends out in pairs=safety + Deuteronomy 2/3 witnesses a fact is confirmed |
| 7  Also not to bring bread, bag, money but staff, not even two tunics  Q: Why?  A: To show their dependence and sufficiency in Christ  Not to rely on comforts of this world but in Christ  -When you go on trip, you pack extra so you are  comfortable  -Would not recommend being homeless  -Special era where apostles would show that they  are supernaturally endowed by Christ  Essentially saying “Die to Self”  If they had all that they needed and wanted, less sufficient in Christ right?  V. 10 “wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town”  Q: Why?  A: Again to show sufficiency in Christ. False teachers wouldn’t do this | 8  False teachers would go from house to house making a profit and benefiting from free stuff  Furthermore V. 11  Shake dust off soles of feet as an act of judgment against them.  -Common Jewish practice  Acts 18 Paul did it in reverse to the Jews  “from now on I am going to the Gentiles”  V. 12 Go out saying that men should repent  Miracles and sign gifts given to authenticate message and messenger  Q: Are miraculous sign gifts active today?  A: No it is not active  Why?: Because Turn to Hebrews 2:3-4  V. 14 Another awkward interruption in sending of twelve  -Markan sandwich |
| 9  VV. 7-13 Story A “The Commissioning of Twelve”  VV. 14-28 Story B “Recalling of John’s Fate”  VV. 29-32 Story A “The Commissioning of Twelve”  King Herod is afraid and paranoid that John the Baptist has risen from dead  Not Herod the Great, but his son “Antipas”  -Regional monarch  Father was one of the greatest architects but also was insane and killed his own family and very immoral  -Slaughtered two of his own sons  -Matt. 2:16 “Slaughtering of babies in Bethlehem”  Quote: “It was safer to be Herod’s dog than one of his children”  Feared that John was going to get his revenge on Herod  Despite what others have said in v. 15, he still thinks it is John | 10  “John, whom I beheaded, has risen!”  V. 17 Recollection of John’s fate  He was executed because of Herodias=Antipas’ niece  Herodias=daughter of Antipas’ half-brother Aristobulus  Sick family and treacherous at highest level  Herodias had a grudge against John  “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife”  She hated that and wanted him murdered. In murdering John, she would murder her own conscience  -Incestous and adulterous act, prohibited in Leviticus  John the Baptizer: Acts 4:20 “could not help but speak that which we have seen and heard”  5:41 rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name |
| 11  Oddly enough, Herod enjoyed listening to him  Could be various reasons: charisma, boldness, or deep down he wanted to change  But wicked and scheming Herodias got her way Herod set up a banquet for all lords, military commanders, and leading men of Galilee  “Strategic” day for who?  Herodias not content to imprison John but to murder him  She is like Jezebel in 1 Kings 21  -Naboth and his vineyard  -Very manipulative and controlling  Banquet not proper ordinary banquet but likely close to an orgy  Daughter of Herodias danced herself instead of prostitutes | 12  Again this would not be a father-daughter dance  but a sexually provocative one  The men and Herod was “pleased”  Sickening because daughter of Herodias is also Herod’s niece, making Herod her uncle  Equally sickening if not more sickening is Herodias willing to use her daughter to get her murderous desire  Reward for dance: “up to half of my kingdom”  -Wasn’t even his to give  “give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter”  -Barbaric and sick  V. 26 “very sorry”  Feared men rather than God, also killed his conscience |
| 13  Herodias got what she wanted but she lost her soul  Like Jezebel God will one day throw her down from her pride and will be ripped to pieces by His chariot of wrath and judgment. Her blood will be eternally licked up by the hounds of hell who have an unquenchable fire.  What about Herod? Does he repent? No  Luke 23: Hoping to see some sign from Jesus  -But mocked and scorned Jesus. Treated with  contempt  Herod also traded his conscience for hell. He too will join his wicked wife and be mocked, scorned, and treated in contempt by the fires of hell for eternity  Ligonier conference question asked  “Since God is slow to anger and patient, then why is His wrath when man first sinned so severe and long-lasting?” | 14  R.C. Sproul responded “this creature from the dirt defied the everlasting and holy God.” His punishment too severe? What’s wrong with you people?!  Crowd: laughed  R.C. I’m serious!! This is what’s wrong with this generation, we don’t know who God is and who we are.  Sinners have no idea how wickedly sinful they are and deserving of judgment!  I used to think like that. Why can’t God be like this, like that, act this way?  If I were God, I would show more mercy to this person!  You have the audacity to question the grace, mercy, kindness and justice of God? |
| 15  Romans 9: “who are you oh man to answer back to God?! Are you stronger than him?!  Question is not: “Why was God so severe?”  Rather: “Why was God not more severe on Adam?!”  You won’t ever come to a proper understanding of who God is until you recognize how depraved you are.  God’s Attributes are like many facets of a diamond.  -Shine brighter against a black backdrop  Like Law in Romans 7:  “Sin became exceedingly sinful”  V. 28 End Story B  V. 29 Resume Story A  Disciples hear about John’s execution and give him a proper burial | 16  V. 30 literally “sent ones”  Ministry success but Jesus told them to rest  Mark weaves these two narratives together to show you a couple of truths:  1. John’s imprisonment prefigures Jesus’ arrest  John’s death prefigures Jesus’ death  2. John’s death passing on baton to NT era/apostles  Jan Hus 1415: “You are going to burn a goose, but  in one hundred years you will have a swan which  you can neither roast nor boil.”  -Martin Luther came onto screen out of the ashes  3. Most importantly, Mark is telling you that following  Jesus comes at a cost  -Consequences to following Jesus in a world of  greed, decadence, power and wealth  Life of receiving shame from the world but receiving honor from God |
| 17  Dispels any notion of a glamorous ministry for disciples  BELIEVER: If you have trusted in Christ  1 Timothy: all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution  Some of you may face martyrdom, some of you may not  Those who do not will still face some form or kind of opposition to the faith  World hates “you must repent of your sins”  Completely taking away someone’s pride  World loves pride but hates humility  -World and sin will try to seduce you into a life of  comfort and free of conflict  Apostle Paul did not live comfortable life  -Example of unashamed life | 18  ***“****Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.”*  How about you? Do you have that attitude?  Are you willing to suffer?  1 Pt. 4:16  *“but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.”* |
| 19  We are not to be ashamed of the gospel for…:  Romans 1:16  *“It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes”*  Q: How do you not have shame?  A: Abide in Christ, Abide in Christ  1 John 2:28  *“Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.”*  If you are truly one of His:  Heb 10:39  *“But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.”* | 20  UNBELIEVER:  If you are ashamed at Christ:  Mark 8:38  *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*  Jesus’ own town rejected Him because they were ashamed  -He exposed sinners for sin and they hated that  -No honor for Christ  Hell will be full of people who gloried in their shame but who did not glory in the shame of Christ  Believe in Christ, trust in Him and He will transform your heart so that you will glory in the cross  God has written the Bible to you so that you will know nothing except “Jesus Christ and Him Crucified”  Benediction: Heb. 2:10-11 |