**Mark 6:1-29 - Discussion Questions**

1. Where did Jesus go to teach on the Sabbath? Why?

2. Is the saying, “familiarity breeds contempt” true? Why do you think the people in his hometown had difficulty believing in him?

3. What prevented him from doing many miracles there?

4. At what was Jesus amazed? (6:6) In what specific areas of your life would you like to have more faith?

5. Why do you suppose that Jesus sent the disciples out two by two? What does this mean to us today?

6. How did Jesus want his men to travel? Why did he tell them to pack lightly?

7. What did Jesus say to do if they were not welcomed?

8. What message did the disciples preach to the people?

9. Were the disciples able to perform miracles?

10. Who did King Herod think Jesus was?

11. Why had Herod arrested John the Baptist and put him in prison?

12. Why did Herod have John beheaded?

**Mark 6:1-29 - Answers (Gary's answers are in italics)**

1. Where did Jesus go to teach on the Sabbath? Why?

*He went to the synagogue because he knew Jews would be assembled there.*

2. Is the saying "familiarity breeds contempt" true? Why do you think the people in his hometown had difficulty believing in him?

*Yes. People see the "humanness" of others when they are around them long enough. Mark 6:4 reads, Jesus said to them, “Only in his home- ‘ town, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor.”’ The problem of a prophet being without honor in his home town is that people who know you well are not so inclined to recognize the "exceptional" in them.*

3. What prevented Jesus from doing many miracles there?

*In Nazareth Jesus chose not to do many miracles in such a climate of unbelief.*

4. At what was Jesus amazed? (6:6) In what specific areas of your life would you like to have more faith?

In many Bible stories we often find that people were amazed at something Jesus did or taught, but in all of scripture, there are only two instances that say that Jesus was amazed: first in Luke 7:9 where Jesus was amazed at the faith or belief of the Centurion and second in Mark 6:6 where he was amazed at a lack of faith. These verses show us that the main way of preventing miracles was simply a lack of faith.

5. Why do you suppose that Jesus sent the disciples out two by two? What does this mean to us today?

The purpose in going in pairs was probably two-fold. First, it would bolster the disciples' credibility by having the testimony of more than one witness to Jesus’ acts and good news and second it the two would provide mutual support to each other during their training period. When Mormons or Jehovah’s Witnesses go out in the community, it is almost always in pairs. It’s more effective and if one person gets discouraged or even sick,

a companion is there to help.

6. How did Jesus want his men to travel? Why did he tell them to pack lightly?

They were to depend entirely on the hospitality of those to whom they testified. He said they were not to move from house to house, possibly seeking better lodging, but use only one home as headquarters while working in a community. An extra tunic was used as a covering to protect from the cold night air; by not taking one the implication is that the disciples were to trust in God to provide lodging each night.

7. What did Jesus say to do if they were not welcomed?

Shake the dust off their feet. Shaking the dust off one’s feet is a sign of repudiation (or rejection) and a solemn warning for their rejection of God’s message; it was also a gesture showing separation from everything associated with the place. Shaking the dust off was actually a symbolic act practiced by the Pharisees when they left a ceremonially unclean Gentile area.

8. What message did the disciples preach to the people?

*Repentance.*

9. Were the disciples able to perform miracles?

*Yes.*

10. Who did King Herod think Jesus was?

*John the Baptist come back to life.*

11. Why had Herod arrested John the Baptist and put him in prison?

*Because he condemned Herod's marriage to Herodias who had been married to his brother Philip.*

12. Why did Herod have John beheaded?

*Because he made a rash promise to the daughter of Herodias offering anything she desired. Her mother told her to ask for the head of John the Baptist.*

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