



## Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

*Mark 6:1-29*

### Summary

---

The opening verses of this passage tell the story of Jesus rejected in his hometown of Nazareth, with those who knew him growing up questioning the authority of his teachings. He then commissions his disciples to go and teach what they have learned, and heal people.

Meanwhile, King Herod has heard of a new preacher named Jesus, and some are saying that it is John the Baptist raised from the dead. The passage then recounts the story of the King's promise, and the ultimate demise of John the Baptist

### Prayer

---

Teaching Christ,  
Help us to be open to your word. May it take root in us so that our faith might flourish, and in the flourishing, may we be inspired to share what we have learned with those with whom we share our lives and this world. We offer this and all our prayers in your strong name. AMEN

## The Story Behind the Words

---

- ❖ How does the rejection of Jesus in his hometown reflect the challenges faced by prophets in their own communities?
  - Why did Jesus have such a hard time gaining credibility in his hometown?
- ❖ What is the connection between Christ's power and belief?
- ❖ Why are the disciples sent out in pairs?
  - What does this suggest about how we should be living into our faith and sharing the Good News?
- ❖ Why was John put in jail in the first place?
  - Why did the King not put him to death rather than in jail?
- ❖ What ultimately leads to the death of John the Baptist?

## The Characters

---

- ❖ Where do you see yourself reflected in this story?
  - When have you identified with the "hometown" crowd, unwilling or unable to hear the truth?
  - When have you identified with the disciples?
- ❖ What emotions are at play in the story of the death of John the Baptist?
- ❖ Who do you feel is responsible for the death of John the Baptist and why?

## What is the Word saying to us?

---

- ❖ What does Jesus' rejection at Nazareth teach us about our call to spread the Good News?
- ❖ What is the significance of Jesus giving the disciples authority?
  - Is he imparting some of his own power?
  - How does this deepen our understanding of the nature of Jesus Christ?
- ❖ What connections and parallels can you draw between the ministries of John and Jesus?
  - How do you think John's death impacted Jesus' own ministry, if at all?

## Where do we go from here?

---

- ❖ How can we be resilient in our faith even in those times when we face opposition?
  - What advice does Jesus give when confronted with those unwilling or unable to hear the Good News?
  - Is this good advice?
- ❖ What does King Herod have to teach us about how we make decisions?
  - What is the limit to keeping one's word?