

Taking It Home:

- Take time to reflect on Mark 6:6. Jesus marveled at the unbelief of those around him. Who do you know that has been exposed to the truth claims of Jesus but still doesn't believe?

- Like Jesus' early followers, you and I have been given a mission (Matthew 28:18-20) to tell others the good news of the Kingdom of God. Having just studied how this mission may cost us even our lives, how does knowing that Jesus is with you always affect your attitude about being on mission?

- Are there certain sacrifices you've been unwilling to make but sense that God may be asking you to trust Him by making those sacrifices this week?

- Mark's story is building up to 10:45 where we read that Jesus paid the ultimate price by giving His life as a ransom for many. Consider Mark 10:45 as a verse for you to memorize this week.

Piercing the Darkness

The Cost

Mark 6:1-29

Dr. Matthew R. St. John

Bethel Church

November 3, 2013

The Cost

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 3, 2013

Mark 6:1-29

Quick Review: Too many of us are surprised when the price of following Jesus suddenly costs more than we imagined. In Mark 6, we see that Jesus, His disciples, and John the Baptist all paid a price in proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Jesus' neighbors and closest friends discredited the work he was doing on the basis that they knew him as one of their own. They refused to believe He was Messiah and were offended by the thought that one of their own could be God's plan for all of humanity. As Jesus left his home town he marveled at their unbelief. Following that encounter, Jesus sends out his disciples in pairs to preach a message of repentance and bring healing to the sick and demonized. The disciples were trained to expect rejection as a natural reaction. The miraculous healing and casting out of demons soon captured the attention of Herod. This gives Mark the perfect opportunity to flash back and interject how much John the Baptist paid to follow Jesus. For all of us, Mark wants us to know that even when the sacrifices feel too great, following Jesus is worth it.

My Story:

- Have you ever walked up to the counter at a store and been surprised by the price at the register? How did it make you feel when it costs more than you expected?
- When has obedience to Jesus cost you and what price did you pay? (Financial, relational, etc)
- If you've had to pay a price in following Jesus, what has been the hardest thing you've done in trusting Him?

Growing Deeper:

- How would you summarize these sections in your own words?
 - Mark 6:1-6
 - Mark 6:7-13
 - Mark 6:14-29
- How was John the Baptist being obedient to God in light of Leviticus 18:16; 20:21?
- Giving special attention to 6:18-20, what price did Herod pay in allowing his wife to manipulate the situation in 6:21-29?
- Considering Matthew 13:57; Mark 3:21; 6:1-6; and John 7:5 what price did Jesus pay in remaining faithful to the Father?
- What observations do you make about the price paid by:
 - Jesus' Family
 - The Disciples
 - John the Baptist