

MAR

Mk. 6:14-20
Wk 21

General:

- Pastor Chip distinguished between guilt (feeling the weight of what we've done) and shame (believing what we've done now defines who we are). Where do you see the difference between those two?
- Pastor Chip opened with the image of guilt as a giant ball and chain and asked, "Is there something that can remove this?" How can unresolved guilt or shame begin to function like bondage in a person's life?
- In verse 14, Jesus' name has become widely known, and people are trying to explain who He is. What do their different conclusions reveal about the difference between recognizing that Jesus is significant and actually knowing who He is?
- Herod hears about Jesus and immediately thinks of John the Baptist, whom he had killed. What does that reveal about how unresolved guilt can shape the way we interpret what is happening around us?
- What stands out to you about John's willingness to confront someone powerful when telling the truth could cost him?
- Herodias responds to John's confrontation by holding a grudge against him. Why can truth sometimes produce repentance in one person and resentment in another?
- How can holding onto resentment toward someone who confronts us keep us from honestly considering whether there is truth in what they are saying?
- Question about PC's comment about being careful when you go and speak the truth; make sure that you're living a righteous and upright life.
- Why does the character of the messenger matter when communicating truth (even if the truth itself does not depend on the messenger being perfect)?
- Verse 20 says Herod was perplexed by John, yet "he heard him gladly." How is it possible to enjoy sermons, Scripture, or spiritual conversations without actually allowing them to change us?

Take Home 1: *Many people and even believers hear Jesus through the lens of their own guilt and shame (Mk. 6:16a)*

- What guilt or shame are you carrying that could be affecting the way you see Jesus or receive the Gospel?
- What is the difference between conviction and condemnation? How can we tell which voice we are listening to?
- If Christianity openly tells us that we are sinners, why isn't the Gospel ultimately a message of shame? What makes conviction in Christianity fundamentally different from condemnation?
- What would it practically look like for you to come to Jesus with your guilt rather than hide it, excuse it, or allow it to define you?

Take Home 2: *We need to recognize in this passage that the man in prison is freer than the man on the throne (Mk. 6:20a)*

- What are some things that can look like freedom on the outside while actually keeping us in bondage?
- How can living according to truth actually make us freer, even when obedience makes our circumstances more difficult?

Take Home 3: *We can enjoy hearing about the truth and even be captivated by it, but never submit our lives to it (Mk. 6:20b)*

- What is the difference between being emotionally moved by truth and actually submitting to it?
- What is Jesus saying that you are currently tempted to admire, discuss, or agree with, but avoid obeying?
- If someone looked only at your habits, priorities, relationships, and decisions, what evidence would they see that God's Word has actually changed you?
- Where might God be calling you beyond simply hearing the truth this week and into repentance or obedience?