

## Prepare Yourselves

Mark 6:14-29

**I.** In the last few lessons from Mark we find that he has been focusing on reaching out to the lost.

1. Mark 6:1-6 - Jesus preached in Nazareth.
2. Mark 6:7-12 - The apostles were sent out to preach.

**II.** In Mark 6:13-29, Mark turns his attention to the death of John the baptist.

**III.** At first glance the flow of the text seems disjointed like Mark has taken a detour

1. He has just finished speaking about the 12 being sent out.
2. He then jumps to the death of John the Baptist
3. And then in Mark 6:30-33 he jumps back to the apostles returning

**IV.** But upon closer examination we see that Mark is really continuing a theme he started back in 6:1. It is the theme of opposition.

**V.** Disciples will find that reaching out to the lost can be a struggle and this struggle can wear on us to the point that we eventually quit trying, **Heb. 12:3**

**VII.** In this part of Marks gospel he is showing that... **Disciples must prepare themselves for the opposition which comes from preaching the Gospel.**

**VIII.** Mark offers two forms of opposition disciples will face when preaching the gospel.

1. Rejection
2. Persecution

**Trans:** Let's consider our first form of opposition disciples will face.

### **1. Disciples will face rejection when preaching the gospel**

A. Throughout Jesus' ministry He warned that rejection came with the territory of being one of His disciples.

1. **Matt. 10:34-36**
2. **John 15:18**

B. In looking back we see that Jesus was rejected when He taught the people of Nazareth.  
**Mark 6:2,6**

C. As the apostles were sent out in two's they were warned about being rejected by entire cities, **Mark 6:11**

D. This is why the example of John the baptist actually fits well here.

1. Mark 6:17-19
2. **Luke 3:18-20**
3. John was thrown into prison because he preached the gospel.
4. He was teaching the truth but Herod and Herodias rejected what he had to say.

E. Time and again Jesus' disciples faced this kind of rejection,

1. **Acts 13:50,51**
2. **Acts 17:2-5**
3. Acts 5:27-33

**Illust:** One man told me I was preaching doctrines of demons when I stated that baptism was necessary for salvation.

**Appl:** As disciples we must realize that opposition comes with the territory and this opposition can wear on you, especially if it's someone in your family, or if it's someone you work with.

**Disciples must prepare themselves for the opposition which comes from preaching the Gospel.**

We prepare ourselves by understanding that we will be rejected but we keep on searching for those who want to hear the truth, **Mark 6:6, 30**

We must not allow rejection to disrupt our work in His kingdom.

**Trans:** The second form of opposition Mark speaks of is persecution. This is our second point.

**2. Disciples will face persecution when preaching the gospel.**

A. Rejection and persecution are connected in some ways, but there is also a big difference.

B. Not everyone who is rejected is persecuted. But everyone who is persecuted is rejected.

C. Persecution involves more than just a turning away from the truth. We see this with John the baptist.

1. It has already been noted that John was rejected because of his teachings.

2. His teachings and subsequent rejection led to his persecution.

a. He was arrested - **Mark 6:17-19**

b. He was beheaded - **Mark 6:27**

3. John was persecuted because he preached the word of God.

D. Jesus warned that persecution comes with the territory of being a disciple, **John 15:20**

E. The entire book of 1Peter is written to help disciples stay faithful when they are persecuted.

1Pet 1:6

1Pet. 4:12

1Pet. 5:8-10

**Illust:** A great illustration of this is Paul

1. Before Paul became a disciple he persecuted disciples, **Acts 8:1-3**

2. After becoming a disciple he faced persecution, **Acts 25:2,3**

**Appl:** As disciples opposition in the form of persecution is something that we will face. It might not be the same as in the first century, although many have been killed or injured simply because they are disciples.

We can face persecution in different ways. It is more than simply being rejected it also involves some form of harassment.

1. It can be physical or verbal.

2. It can be against you or your property.

**Disciples must prepare themselves for the opposition which comes from preaching the Gospel.**

We can prepare ourselves by being aware that we can and will be persecuted for preaching the gospel.

We can prepare ourselves for persecution by following the example of Jesus, **1Pet. 2:21-23**.

**Con:** As we look back on what Mark is trying to teach in Mark 6:14-19, it seems clear that he is preparing Jesus' disciples for what is ahead.

The life of a disciple is not an easy one. There are many bumps and bruises along the way. There are rejections and persecutions and these can make a body grow weary.

**Disciples must prepare themselves for the opposition which comes from preaching the Gospel.**

Mark is a book on discipleship.

1. Mark provides the proof needed to become a disciple of Jesus
2. Mark provides the training needed to remain a disciple of Jesus

In Mark 6:1-29 he has provided training by making disciples aware of the opposition they will face as they preach the gospel of Christ.