

## July 5, 2026 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

### "The Joy of Serving a King, Not a Crowd"— Mark 6:14-30

1. Looking at the parallel between the treatment of John the Baptist in Mark 6 and the treatment of Jesus in Mark, what does this tell us about the world's reaction to the truth?
2. Why does Herod think Jesus is John the Baptist raised from the dead, and what does this reveal about Herod's conscience?
3. In the ancient cultural context, why did Herod feel so bound by his oath to give Herodias' daughter "half his kingdom," even though it meant executing a man he respected?
4. How does John's death function as a "foreshadowing" of what is to come for Jesus in the later chapters of Mark's Gospel?
5. Herod was held captive by his desire for the approval of his "dinner guests." In your own life, who are the "dinner guests" whose opinion you fear more than the truth of God?
6. We often view compromise as a "smart" or "safe" political or strategic move to avoid conflict. Looking at Herod's life, what are the hidden, long-term costs of choosing the applause of the crowd over the conviction of the conscience?
7. If you were to stop "trying harder to be liked" and start "resting in being loved by God," what is one specific situation or relationship in your life that would look different next week? What might you do or say that you had been too afraid to before?

## FILLED IN ANSWERS TO THE SERMON OUTLINE

- I. The faithful proclamation of God's truth inevitably collides with the power and pride of the world, often demanding the listener to decide who Jesus really is, and to count the cost of that decision.
- II. Fearing the judgment of the world more than the judgment of God, we suppress the truth at the cost of wandering, chained to our own pride and pleasure.
- III. Jesus is the True King who faced the ultimate mock trial and unjust execution—not as a helpless victim of political circumstance, but as the willing substitute to pay the cost for compromised sinners.
- IV. Empowered by the True King who died for us, we can faithfully bear witness to His truth, no matter the cost, free from the paralyzing fear of man.