

Pointing to Jesus > Mark 6:14-29

6:14-16 *Who is Jesus?* The entire point of recounting John the Baptist's tragic story in the following verses is to teach us something about Jesus: who he is, what he has come to do, how he would suffer and be persecuted.

6:17-20 *Flashback: Persecution.* John the Baptist followed the Lord's call on his life to preach repentance to anyone and everyone. That call led to John's imprisonment when he confronted a high official for violating God's law.

6:21-29 *Flashback: Death.* Eventually, John is put to death on the petty whims of a jealous wife and her spineless husband. That this story is recounted by Mark in the middle of two pictures of discipleship teaches us to expect persecution if we are to be true followers of Christ our King.

The Point: John's story teaches us about our Savior, about the cost of following him, and about how God's promises are greater than persecution and death. We must follow and hope in our Lord, even when that leads to earthly hardship.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for our King, who has defeated death. Thank you for the faithful who have gone before us, teaching us to prize your "well done" over anything this world has to offer. Make us bold and confident in Christ, willing to live for him even when it's costly.

Application: Believe God's promises more than the world's threats. Follow Christ as King and trust him for your life both now and for eternity.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
