

November 27/28, 2004

Study Questions

The Good News About Jesus According to Mark

The Cost of Following Jesus

Mark 6:14-29

Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. What does it cost the average Christian in America to follow Jesus?
2. What has it cost you to follow Jesus?
3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement and why?
“Nothing is ultimately worth living for if it is not ultimately worth dying for.”

Bible Study

1. Read Mark 6:14-29.
2. In what ways is the story of John’s fate a foreshadowing of what is to come with Jesus? What are the similarities?
3. Compare John’s fate with Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:10-12; 16:24-26.

What should we expect as followers of Jesus?

What might this mean in our American culture?
4. Does the lack of intense persecution of the American church feed the erroneous idea that following Jesus is about health, wealth and prosperity? Why or why not?

How would people in the Sudan, Iran, North Korea, Iraq, Pakistan and China respond to the message of health, wealth and prosperity?
5. Many Christians in America are frustrated because they are trying to live in two worlds by living out two value systems.

How is living out two value systems different in a culture where people are persecuted, imprisoned, tortured and executed for their faith?

What do we learn from these courageous believers?

Application

1. What does it mean to you to count the cost of following and serving Jesus?
2. What practical things can you do as a group to encourage one another to take your stand and live for that which ultimately matters?
3. Is there anything preventing you from counting the cost and taking your stand for Jesus? If so, how might the group help address your area of concern?
4. Consider as a group subscribing to “The Voice of the Martyrs” magazine to stay informed on the persecuted church around the world. Perhaps prayer requests from the magazine could be shared each time the group meets.

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