Bringing it Home

1. This week Pastor Jeremiah said that, “(John) did not consider the end before he made a move for Jesus.” He didn’t first calculate what it might cost him before he started to fulfill his Kingdom assignment. What are some of the “moves” that God has been nudging you to take these days?

2. What can you do to take steps away from “self-importance” and toward “self-sacrifice” for Jesus? How would you have to push back internally against the “me first” messages of our culture and focus more on God’s plan for you in our world? How do you think your life would change if you made an attitude shift like that?

Sermon Notes


John the Baptist:
- Jesus called him the greatest man who ever lived - Matthew 11:11
- Jesus called him the greatest prophet who ever lived - Luke 7:28
- Jesus called him a “burning and a shining lamp.” - John 5:35; 1:29; 10:41

I. Herod’s Memory of John the Baptist - Mark 6:14-16

II. Herod’s Murder of John the Baptist - Mark 6:17-29

A. The Incarceration of John the Baptist - Mark 6:17

B. The Indictment by John the Baptist - Mark 6:18

C. The Indignation toward John the Baptist - Mark 6:19

D. The Intimidation of John the Baptist - Mark 6:20

E. The Intrigue against John the Baptist - Mark 6:21-24

F. The Immediate execution of John the Baptist - Mark 6:25-28

1. The Hideous Request - Mark 6:25

2. The Haunting Remorse - Mark 6:26

3. The Hurried Response - Mark 6:27

4. The Horrible Result - Mark 6:28

G. The Interment of John the Baptist - Mark 6:29
Small Group Questions

Getting Started
1. You’ve probably heard the saying, “Don’t kill the messenger.” Why do we have such a problem when that happens? What’s that injustice all about?

2. Do you recall a time when simply delivering a message cost you something personally?

Digging Deeper
1. John the Baptist didn’t simply carry a message about Jesus; he was a central part of Jesus’ influence in the world. How does “a” message become “our” message? What changes in us to make that happen?

2. John the Baptist was sacrificial in his role. The notion of self-sacrifice, or self-forgetfulness, doesn’t often play well in a culture like ours. Why is that? What is it about our world that clashes so hard with that value?

3. We learn this week, from John 5:35, that John the Baptist was called a “wick” whose purpose was to be used up as a shining light for Jesus. Plain and simple, John’s life wasn’t all about himself. What’s the spiritual lesson in that for a culture like ours that is so focused on the importance of the individual? How might John’s example change your thinking, in spite of our “me-focused” world?

4. John the Baptist fully accepted personal sacrifice in order to faithfully carry his message. Take a look at the following passages and talk about how we can think about sacrificing to follow God faithfully.

   Genesis 50:19-20

   2 Corinthians 11:24-27; Philippians 1:12-14; 18-21 (take all these together)

   Philippians 4:10-12

   2 Timothy 2:8-10

5. Herod reveals to us that there is something in a man that is drawn to the truth; even in a man who does evil. How do you explain that? How does that make sense to you? Look at Ezekiel 33:30-32 and talk about what drew people to that prophet’s message.