

## REWARDS AND RISKS

Mark 6:1 (NIV) *Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? <sup>3</sup> Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.*

<sup>4</sup> *Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> He was amazed at their lack of faith.*

### Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

*Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. <sup>7</sup> Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.*

<sup>8</sup> *These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. <sup>9</sup> Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. <sup>10</sup> Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”*

<sup>12</sup> *They went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.*

### John the Baptist Beheaded

<sup>14</sup> *King Herod heard about this, for Jesus’ name had become well known. Some were saying, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.” <sup>15</sup> Others said, “He is Elijah.”*

*And still others claimed, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago.”*

<sup>16</sup> *But when Herod heard this, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!”*

<sup>21</sup> *Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, “Ask me for anything you want, and I’ll give it to you.” <sup>23</sup> And he promised her with an oath, “Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.”*

<sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered. <sup>25</sup> At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

### **WHAT WILL GOD REWARD?**

#### **How did we use our time, talent, and treasure?**

Matthew 6:3-4 (NIV) *But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

#### **Praying for others**

Matthew 6:6 (NIV) *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

#### **Submitting to your employer**

Colossians 3:23 (NIV) *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving*

#### **Denying Self**

Matthew 16:24-27 (NIV) *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me...whoever loses their life for me will find it...what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.*

#### **Serving Others.**

Mark 9:41 (NIV) *Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.*

#### **Suffering for His name**

Luke 6:22-23 (NIV) *Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.*

#### **Sacrifices you make for Him.**

Luke 6:35 (NIV) *But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked*