

Following the Good News about Jesus, ICB 2011
The Gospel of Mark, Chapters 1-8

“For Further Reflection”
Manuscript Study
March 13 2011
(2 pages)

From Mark 6:1-29

Title: Who Do You Say that I Am? Dangerous Options

Focus of Message from this Section

As we follow the good news about Jesus, we are moving toward the culmination of this present series when Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” This important question is one that each of us must answer. In this present section of Scripture, we see three dangerous options as to how others have answered this question.

1. Dangerous Option One: Thinking Jesus is NO different than us; reducing Jesus to be like us
2. Dangerous Option Two: Treating Jesus as one’s private holy man who makes one feel guilty but not repentant
3. Dangerous Option Three: Reducing the authority of Jesus to what one has presently experienced of that authority

For Further Reflection:

1. Look closely at the reaction of the people in the town, Nazareth, where Jesus grew up (6:1-5) and how this impacted Jesus ministry. They fell into the first dangerous option. As you consider how this might apply to your life, ask yourself
 - What are ways I can try to make Jesus no different than myself, when he is?
 - Am I offended when he isn’t like me, when his teaching offends me?
 - How do I respond when Jesus doesn’t conform to my expectations?
2. Herod’s interest in Jesus (6:14-29) related to how he had treated John the Baptist, as his private holy man (see Luke 9:9 and Luke 23:8; see also his death in Acts 12:19-24). It is clear that Herod was convicted by what John said but did not change his pattern of living. He fell into the second dangerous option. As you consider how this might apply to your life, ask yourself
 - What are ways I can treat Jesus as my personal holy man? What are ways I like who Jesus is, what he does, and am even convicted by what he says but remain unchanged in key areas of my life where he is calling me to repent, to change?
3. When the disciples were sent out by Jesus (6:6b-13), it is clear that they preached and did what they had experienced of the authority of Jesus. They were obedient to what they knew. After this episode, the disciples would have many more experiences of Jesus that would deepen their understanding of him. As you consider how this might apply to your life, ask yourself,

- Is there any danger in my life of limiting Jesus to my present experience of his authority? Am I still eager and open to follow him fully where he leads me?
4. The sending out of the twelve disciples in Mark 6:6b – 13 is also noted in other gospel accounts (Matthew 10; Luke 9:1-9). Luke also records the sending out of the seventy-two (Luke 10). You may find it helpful to note differences and similarities in these accounts.
 5. **What other good news about Jesus have you come to see from this section?**