

Life Group Notes
Sunday 15 October 2017

Speaker: Scott Taylor

Series: Disciples of Jesus

Title: Influence

Passages: Mark 6:21-29 & Mark 6:35-44

We started a new series on Sunday looking at what it is to be disciples of Jesus, through the book of Mark. The series will look at six sets of stories shown by Mark to be in stark contrast. This was to help them see how to live and how not to live.

To kick off the series we started with influence. Looking at the questions:

- 1) What is influencing you and what effect does it have? And 2) Who and how are you influencing others?

So the first story is looking at **Herod's birthday party. (Mark 6 v 21-29)**

- What influences are on Herod? – His wife (via his daughter), his guests (all prominent and with a vested interest in being there); alcohol; and his word, his oath.
- What was the effect of the influences? Compromise (He didn't want to kill John); fear (didn't want to lose face before his guests), loss of power (he felt he had to follow through)!
- How does Herod use his influence? – he orders John to be killed
- What's the effect of his influence? – fear (guests, disciples), sadness (Jesus, himself), death (John is beheaded.)

The second story is looking at **Jesus' impromptu picnic (Mark 6 v 35 – 44)**

- What influences are on Jesus? – Crowd (they are tired and hungry); disciples (they are tired and hungry); His Father (he looks to heaven and prays)
- What's the effect of that influence on Jesus? – compassion, a plan, display of his power,
- How does Jesus use his influence? – he commands the people to sit in groups and he gets the disciples to feed the people
- What's the effect of his influence? –full bellies, peace, life,

So there are two contrasting stories – one where we say, well we don't want to be like Herod and one where we say we want to be like Jesus, but know we'll fall short. Our everyday reality is probably more like the disciples:

- What influences are on disciples? – crowd, hunger, tiredness, Jesus
- What's the effect of that influence on disciples? – confusion -own strength mentality, obedience
- How do the disciples use their influence? – they follow Jesus' command and they find what food there is and they dish it out
- What's the effect of their influence? –, full bellies, faith grows, life

To be disciples of Jesus, we must recognise that there are influences upon us that are negative and positive, but is Jesus whose influence should be strongest upon us. And as he influences us, so too we get to influence others being those who bring God's colours and flavours to this world.

Suggested application and questions

- 1) What are some of the strong influences you come under in your everyday life?
- 2) How can grow in being influenced by Jesus?
- 3) How can you bring your influence to bear as the disciples did following Jesus?