

Newington '25 – 'A Year in the Gospels' together #20 (April 14 - 19)

April 14 - 19/ Day 1: Read Matthew 10:16-42:

Jesus is preparing His followers for the responses they will receive in His name.

Q. How can we be as "wise as serpents and harmless as doves" as we live in this world?

Q. How are we to respond to the challenges faced?

April 14 - 19/ Day 2: Read Matthew 14:1-12:

Q. What do you feel is driving Herod's actions in this story? What about John's actions?

Q. How have you let fear or distress overwhelm your understanding of right and wrong? How? Why?

April 14 - 19/ Day 3: Read Mark 6:14-29; Luke 9:7-9: Mark's account of John's beheading shows Herod as a man in conflict. He likes John but will not accept his message. Also, he was afraid of John, but he protected him.

Q. What life-lessons do you see in the story of John the Baptist's death?

Q. What conflicts between action and belief do you see in your own life story and history?

Q. How can you avoid falling into the type of trap that Herod finds himself in?

April 14 - 19/ Day 4: Read Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44:

Q. When is a time when you felt a nudging or command from God to do something and didn't feel up to the task?

Q. How do these passages challenge in using time, money, talents, relationships, etc that we have been given?

April 14 - 19/ Day 5: Read Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15: As you think about your life and what God is calling you to do, remember that Jesus is big enough to see you through the impossible situations in your life.

Q. What passages/promises help you remember that Jesus is sufficient to provide for all your needs?

Q. What acts of personal ministry are you currently involved in? Why do you participate in them?

April 14 - 19/ Day 6: Study and Meditation – Consider the following questions: This week, we saw that Jesus calls us as His servant followers to a life of commitment, even in the face of rejection or persecution.

Q. Which fears or challenge in this calling from Jesus, do you struggle with the most? Why?

Q. What can you do to keep going in the face of any rejection to reach out to others in Jesus's name?