

July 12 2015 "Tipping Points" based on Mark 6:14-29

Crises tend to tip the pendulum leading to action.

-shows in major issues: civil rights, health care, energy, gun control

-forget controversy and focus on lesson: Jesus sent disciples on mission, then Mark told of John.

Why does Mark include this narrative now? What's the significance? Is there any 'good news'?

-John the Baptist decapitated by Herod. Foolish promise. Did what was expedient. Human nature seek the easy way.

-Disciples shown the consequences of going against prevailing authority. Savagery of death was an image the early Christians would not forget.

-John's death precipitates Jesus' death. Baptist prepares way for Jesus. Ultimate death brings both into kingdom, while Herod and Pilate wind up condemned.

Is this episode the 'tipping point' in Jesus' story?

-Barbara Brown Taylor story. Can't be naïve about evil, but God ultimately wins and 'redeems' our lives.

-Will we be part of the 'tipping' to the good, easing the world into God's Kingdom.