**Perplexed by Jesus**

**Sermon Based Discussion (May 21, 2017)**

**The Gospel of Mark**

**WARM UP**

1. Which of these reactions do people have when it comes to Jesus: being offended, being afraid, or being attracted? Please explain your answer.

*There may be someone in your life who causes a surprising mixture of emotions. Perhaps it’s a parent for whom you feel both love but also fear with. Maybe it’s a professor or leader for whom you feel both respect but also offended by their different views.*

*Perhaps Jesus has generated the greatest variety of reactions from people. In this session we consider how King Herod was perplexed by the Christlike quality of John the Baptist, and how this may apply to our lives.*

**INTO THE BIBLE (Mark 6:14-29)**

1. Describe how King Herod felt about John the Baptist. Why did he have these different feelings?
2. In your own words, how did Herod feel about beheading John? Why was he conflicted?

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. Why would someone be offended, afraid, and attracted to John’s teaching at the same time the way Herod was?
2. In the end, what was the dominant desire or idol in Herod’s life when it came to deciding John’s fate?

**DIFFERENCE**

1. Can you relate to the experience of feeling a mixture of emotions towards Jesus? What mixture of emotions have you felt towards Jesus?
2. Which of these three reactions – feeling offended by Jesus’ commands, feeling afraid of Jesus’ holy judgement, and feeling attracted by Jesus’ power and grace—do you think you should cultivate more in your life and why?

**APPLICATION**

1. How can the church change in order to perplex people with all that Jesus is? What are Christians doing a good job of? What can Christians do better in?
2. How can I personally change in order to see the perplexing qualities of Jesus, and to show Jesus to those around me in my home, work, or school?