

Follow – Walking in the Way of Jesus

The Death of John the Baptist

Mark 6:14-29

Pastor Ben Hall – Saanich Baptist Church

October 12th, 2025



SBC's MISSION: We exist to make disciples who are **formed in the gospel, rooted in belonging, and living with purpose.**

SBC's VISION: Saanich Baptist Church is a **gospel-centered community**, formed by Christ united in purpose to embrace faith, declare hope, serve with love — so that God's redemptive work **renews lives** and **transforms our Island.**

Whenever we talk about complex issues, we are dealing with multiple perspectives:

1. **Public – The Cultural Conversation.** This is the societal layer: How an issue is talked about in media, education, and everyday life.
2. **Policy – The System and Structure.** This is the legal or institutional layer: Laws, policies, and organizational rules that shape how people live.
3. **Principle – The Biblical Foundation.** This is the truth layer ie. What Scripture reveals about God's design, character, and moral order.
4. **Pastoral – The Human Connection.** This is the relational layer: How we care for real people walking through real pain.
5. **Personal – The Inner Work.** This is the self-awareness layer: How I process and react to an issue.
6. **Prophetic – The Courage to Speak Truth.** This is the conviction layer: Where does God's Word confront sin, call for justice, and point to hope.

LOVE is to DISCERN where people are coming from. MATURITY is to hold MULTIPLE perspectives at once.

Mark 6:14-29 — Herod wanted PLEASURE & John threatened his CONSCIENCE. Herodias wanted POWER & John threatened her CONTROL.

Romans 1:18-22, People are without excuse. 21 For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools.

Matthew 11:2-11, John heard in prison what the Christ was doing, he... asked him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

- John's doubt reminds us that even faithful servants can wrestle with unmet expectations of God.
- Jesus' response reminds us that He meets our confusion with revelation, not condemnation.
- The cross and resurrection remind us that the way of God's kingdom is deeper, slower, and far more redemptive than the way of human power.

Assess & Reflect

- LOVE: "Am I discerning or dismissive?" REFLECTION: Love doesn't rush to label. It listens. It asks, "What's shaping this person's view?" NOT "How do I win this argument?"
- MATURITY: "Can I hold tension without hostility?" REFLECTION: Maturity is the ability to carry paradox, to see both the the truth and the tenderness without collapsing into extremes.
- GROWTH: "Where is God stretching my perspective?" REFLECTION: Spiritual growth often means expanding the range of our empathy and discernment, learning to see an issue not just through a preferred lens, but through God's framework.

Date: Oct. 12th, 2025

Series: Follow

Title: Death of John the Baptist

Primary Passage: Mark 6:14-29

Secondary Passage: Matthew 11:2-11

Big Question: How do we hold the tension of love and truth as we live on mission?

Big Idea: The gospel reminds us that Love is to discern where people are coming from and Maturity is to hold multiple perspectives at once.

Keywords: Complexity, Perspectives, Love, Maturity, Power, Pleasure, Conscience, Control, No Excuse, Doubt, Discern, Dismiss, Tension

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When did love challenge you this week? What did the truth cost you?

When was a time you found yourself in disagreement with someone about a complex issue? How did the conversation start? How did the conversation progress? Did it reach a resolution?

Which of the perspectives (reverse page) do you default to? Do you agree or disagree with the statement: *Love is to discern where people are coming from. Maturity is to hold multiple perspectives at once.* What does that look like in real life?

Read Mark 6:14-29. What stands out to you about this passage? How was John a threat to Herod? How was he a threat to Herodias?

Read Matthew 11:2-11. What stands out to you about this passage? Why do you think John asked Jesus the question? What is profound about Jesus' response?

How does the gospel give us a worldview where we are free to both show love and hold truth, and not neglect one for the other?

Spend some time praying through the Personal Assessment Questions and Reflection (Reverse Page). What is Christ revealing to you about Himself? What is a promise He's giving you to live by? Who is someone He's asking you to love with truth?