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2/9/2020

- Hey
  - House - medical drama show back in the 2000's. Hugh Laurie. Loved it.
  - There was one episode where they were treating a patient, and one of the doctors got infected with that very illness. It was a fast-acting illness, and the doctor's symptoms were exactly 8 hours delayed after the patient would show them. It was a direct preview of what was to come for the doctor, and it was a race against time to find out what the illness was and what the treatment could be.
  - The episode ratcheted up the tension when the patient died, and the clock was then ticking for them to save the doctor himself.
- You
  - That kind of story-telling is effective. It's a foreshadowing. What will happen to our main character?
- Look
  - In Mark, thus far through 6 chapters, we've seen Jesus encounter some powerful obstacles
  - Illness/sickness, demonic, Jewish religious leaders. All of those, Jesus was able to overcome
  - Here though, there's some doubt that begins to be sown in the mind of the reader.
  - Jesus comes into his own hometown. He is not successful here. He does not force himself into the hearts of people who reject him.
  - Will the world really receive him? That's the question that is posed to us at that point.
  - Jesus is frustrated but not deterred. He proceeds on to the next opportunities, redoubling his efforts.
  - And then we see Herod introduced. A powerful political leader, a representative of the very political kingdom that most people believed Jesus was there to confront.
  - Herod says that this is the return of John the Baptist.
  - We see what happened to Jesus' other forerunner - John the Baptist.
  - The parallels in this story are striking when you lay them out. Herod is a powerful leader who is trying to protect John but ultimately is unable to because of the pressures of the moment. John is a casualty in the affairs of people in power. John's disciples come and bury him when they hear of his death.
  - We are left wondering if these things can happen to John the Baptist, will they happen to Jesus? And spoiler alert, they do. Almost word for word in some cases.
- Do
  - But that's not the only thing that happens again. The question that sends us off into the flashback is this. What are people saying about Jesus? And what does Herod think about Jesus?
  - Here in chapter 6, we're presented with what the options are: John the Baptist, Elijah, a prophet like one of the prophets of old. Herod decides that it is option 1.

- But then in chapter 8, we revisit this question, this time from Jesus' own lips. Who do people say that I am? And who do you say that I am? Peter's answer to Jesus was that he was the Messiah. Peter was right, but also wrong.
- Jesus then goes into act 2 of his ministry, the acting out of what Messiah truly means.
- And we are left with those questions: what do people say about Jesus? And who do you say that he is? As we follow this narrative and all the narratives in the Gospels, they present us with an argument for Jesus, they try to persuade us to follow him. And they make the case that following Jesus might have a cost involved. Certainly, John the Baptist died at the hands of powerful people who didn't like what he had to say. Jesus died at the hands of powerful people who didn't like what he had to say. I had a former bishop who had a favorite line that he liked to say: If you're going to truly follow Jesus, you better be ready to look good on wood.