July 11, 2021 “Shaping a Faith that Sustains”

1. Introduction
   1. Setting the scene with John, Herod, and Herodias
   2. Read from Ezekiel 2:5 “Whether they hear or refuse to hear … they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.”
   3. John the Baptist’s death in the context of Mark’s story
   4. The loss of innocence as Jesus’ ministry continues and grows
2. Sent Out into the Real World
   1. What made the disciples qualified and able?
   2. John’s death puts in context the world and situation the disciples, and Jesus, were ministering in
   3. Read from Psalm 24:3-5 “Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation.”
   4. Hope for us in how God can use even us
3. Moving by and Through Faith
   1. Read from Amos 7:14-15 “Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'”
   2. Humility as the foundation for service
   3. Reliance on God not only for essentials, but for everything in life
   4. What do we need to sacrifice in our lives to make room for that?
4. Sacrifice as Correction
   1. Read from 2 Samuel 6:14-16 “David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.”
   2. Allowing ourselves to be reminded of how far we need to go, even to be made foolish in the eyes of ourselves and the world
5. Conclusion
   1. What is the status of our faith right now? What is it made out of?
   2. Whether it is sticks or bricks, our good news is that God is already there with us
   3. We don’t need to run to our next solution or fix, we need to turn to God who is with us right now and leading us