

"NO MISTAKEN IDENTITY, IN THE RUSH OF THE WIND!"
JULY 11, 2021 - THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AMOS 7:7-15; EPHESIANS 1:3-14; MARK 6:14-29
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

Have you ever experienced a case of mistaken identity? Maybe someone thought you were someone else? Maybe you saw someone from a distance, you came closer for a better look, only to find out you were wrong? Mark's story today is filled with mistaken identity. People are getting to know Jesus. Many say who they think he is; but they are mistaken. Herod had an idea who Jesus was, who John the Baptist was, and who he himself was; he was mistaken. Herod allows his daughter to ask for John's head. Vowing to keep his word and promise, Herod gives in, rather than using his power and position. We have times like this, too. We make mistakes about who Jesus is in our life. We make mistakes about the power we have as his disciples. Today as we come closer, let us make no mistake as we trust and feel all God makes known in the rush of The Wind. God makes no mistake, making us who we are - the saved, grace-filled, spirit-led children of God in Jesus Christ!

1. We make mistakes at times about who other people are. We also make mistakes about who we are. Like those who followed Jesus, we may be mistaken about the rush of The Wind, and we may even make mistakes about who Jesus is.
Ephesians 1:5,11-13; Mark 6:14-15
 - A. The people experienced their case of mistaken identity when they tried to identify Jesus. We make mistakes, too.
 - B. The people were trying to say who Jesus was, and yet they were mistaken. The people had ideas about Jesus, and yet they limited who he was.
 - C. We are mistaken if we limit who Jesus is, and if we limit who we are, and who others are in the rush of The Wind, in the power and grace of Jesus Christ.

2. We are mistaken if we limit our identity in Christ. Make no mistake about who we are in the rush of The Wind, in the power and grace of Christ.
Amos 7:8,13-15; Ephesians 1:5-8,13-14; Mark 6:16-28
 - A. Herod experienced his case of mistaken identity when he gave in to others. We give in, too, and we forget what matters most.

- i. Herod tried to figure out John and Jesus, not himself.
 - ii. Herod had all kinds of power, and he gave in to others.
 - B. As we try to make God and neighbors first, others will try to take away our power, and we may even want to give it away at times. Let us make no mistake about who we are as we follow Jesus.
 - i. Like Amos, we have a "plumb line" to help us make fewer mistakes, to keep us in balance and on course.
 - ii. Let us not be deeply grieved! Even when we feel pressures to give up our identity in Christ, we can find hope and strength in the body of Christ!
- 3. When it comes to being saved; when it comes to God sending his Son to save us and the world; when it comes to adopting us, and naming us as his children; feel the rush of The Wind, God in Jesus Christ makes no mistake!
Amos 7:8; Ephesians 1:4-8,11-14; Mark 6:20
 - A. Let us come a little closer and see more clearly who Jesus is and who we are. Make no mistake, our identity, hope and strength are secured in Christ; through water and Word, all we know about Jesus, and all we still do not yet know completely.
 - B. Make no mistake about your own identity, for God makes it all clear:
`I have made you who you are. You are saved, grace-filled, and spirit led to know exactly who you are in Jesus Christ!'