

## The Gospel According to Mark

# Haunted Herod

Mark 6:14-29



6/12/2022 PM

### Introduction:

“Now some of the Jews thought that the destruction of Herod’s army came from God as a just punishment of what Herod had done against John, who was called the Baptist. For Herod had killed this good man, who had commanded the Jews to exercise virtue, righteousness towards one another and piety towards God.... Now many people came in crowds to him, for they were greatly moved by his words. Herod, who feared that the great influence John had over the masses might put them into his power and enable him to raise a rebellion (for they seemed ready to do anything he should advise), thought it best to put him to death.... Accordingly, John was sent as a prisoner, out of Herod’s suspicious temper, to Machaerus, the castle I already mentioned, and was put to death.”  
– Josephus (*Antiquities* 18:116-119)

## I. THE TROUBLED CONSCIENCE OF HEROD ANTIPAS (vs. 14-20)

### A. The Man that Troubled Him (vs. 14-15)

“And King Herod heard of it, for His name had become well known...”

“But others were saying, ‘He is Elijah.’ ” (Malachi 3:1; 4:5)

“And others were saying, ‘He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.’ ”

### B. The Murder that Tormented Him (vs. 16-18)

“But when Herod heard of it, he kept saying, ‘John, whom I beheaded, has risen!’ ”

“For Herod himself had sent and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her.”

“For John had been saying to Herod, ‘It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.’”

## II. THE TERRIBLE CRIME OF HEROD ANTIPAS (vs. 19-29)

### A. The Arrest of John the Baptist (vs. 19-20)

“Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death and could not do so...”

“for Herod was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe.”

“And when he heard him, he was very perplexed; but he used to enjoy listening to him.”

## B. The Assassination of John the Baptist (vs. 21-28)

### 1. The Day and the Dance (vs. 21-23)

“A strategic day came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his lords and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee...”

“and when the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests...”

“and the king said to the girl, ‘Ask me for whatever you want and I will give it to you.’ And he swore to her, ‘Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you; up to half of my kingdom.’ ”

### 2. The Demand and the Decapitation (vs. 24-28)

“And she went out and said to her mother, ‘What shall I ask for?’ And she said, ‘The head of John the Baptist.’ ”

“Immediately she came in a hurry to the king and asked, saying, ‘I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.’ ”

“And although the king was very sorry, yet because of his oaths and because of his dinner guests, he was unwilling to refuse her.”

“Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded him to bring back his head.”

“And he went and had him beheaded in the prison, and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother.”

## C. The Aftermath (vs. 29)

“When his disciples heard about this, they came and took away his body and laid it in a tomb.”

### **Conclusion:**

- 1) People who preach repentance and point to Jesus as the Messiah can expect opposition, persecution, imprisonment, and perhaps a martyr's death.
- 2) One stroke of the executioner's blade ended John's life on earth. But it didn't end his on-going ministry and influence.
- 3) Herod Antipas' example must serve as a caution to all who brush up against the Lord Christ.

Luke 23:6-11