

**Mark 6:14-29 — “John the Baptist: Imprisoned, Hated, Killed — Yet Faithful”**

The torture of a bad conscience is the hell of a living soul... There is no greater torment than an evil conscience (John Calvin)

Hurt not your conscience with any known sin. (Samuel Rutherford)

- Why did God give us this account of John the Baptist’s execution?
  1. **the effects** of what can happen when you proclaim the gospel faithfully! [*suffering*]
  2. **the demand** of the Savior who calls you to wholehearted discipleship! (*submission*)
  3. **the encouragement** that no enemy/opposition can destroy God's gospel work! [*sovereignty*]

**THESIS — We’ll walk thru this story and heed 2 urgent admonitions:**

1. Fear the Torment of a guilty conscience
2. Follow the Example of a godly prophet

## **I. FEAR THE TORMENT OF A GUILTY CONSCIENCE (14-16)**

This is the story of the Death of a Conscience (R Kent Hughes)

### **A. the fame of Jesus**

### **B. the fear of Herod**

“He imagined still that he saw and heard that holy head shouting and crying out against him, staring him also in the face at every turn...God hath laid upon evil-doers the cross of their own consciences, that thereon they may suffer afore they suffer; and their greatest enemies need not wish them a greater mischief.” (John Trapp)

## **II. FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF A GODLY PROPHET (17-29)**



**Charles Wesley wrote:**

I want a principle within of watchful, godly fear,  
 a sensibility of sin, a pain to feel it near.  
 I want the first approach to feel of pride or wrong desire,  
 to catch the wandering of my will, and quench the kindling fire.

From thee that I no more may stray, no more thy goodness grieve,  
 grant me the filial awe, I pray, the tender **conscience** give.  
 Quick as the apple of an eye, O God, my **conscience** make;  
 awake my soul when sin is nigh, and keep it still awake.

Almighty God of truth and love, to me thy power impart;  
 the mountain from my soul remove, the hardness from my heart.  
 O may the least omission pain my reawakened soul,  
 and drive me to that blood again, which makes the wounded whole.

**ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS NAME**

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' Name!  
 Let angels prostrate fall;  
 Bring forth the royal diadem,  
 And crown Him Lord of all!  
 Bring forth the royal diadem,  
 And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
 Ye ransomed from the fall,  
 Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,  
 And crown Him Lord of all!  
 Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,  
 And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,  
 On this terrestrial ball,  
 To Him all majesty ascribe,  
 And crown Him Lord of all!  
 To Him all majesty ascribe,  
 And crown Him Lord of all!

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
 We at His feet may fall!  
 We'll join the everlasting song,  
 And crown Him Lord of all!  
 We'll join the everlasting song,  
 And crown Him Lord of all!

## **JERUSALEM**

See Him in Jerusalem  
Walking where the crowds are  
Once these streets had sung to Him  
Now they cry for murder  
Such a frail and lonely man  
Holding up the heavy cross  
See Him walking in Jerusalem  
On the road to save us

See him there upon the hill  
Hear the scorn and laughter  
Silent as a lamb he waits  
Praying to the father  
See the king who made the sun  
And the moon and shining stars  
Let the soldiers hold and nail him down  
So that he could save them

See him there upon the cross  
Now no longer breathing  
Dust that formed the watching crowds  
Takes the blood of Jesus  
Feel the earth is shaking now  
See the veil is split in two  
And he stood before the wrath of God  
Shielding sinners with his blood

See the empty tomb today  
Death could not contain him  
Once the servant of the world  
Now in victory reigning  
Lift your voices to the one  
Who is seated on the throne  
See him in the new Jerusalem  
Praise the one who saved us