

Sermon Outline

In Mark 6:14-32 we see 6 facts about the murder of John the Baptist.

- I. Many remember John's murder (vs. 14-16).
- II. Herodias desires John's murder (vs. 17-19).
- III. Herod delays John's murder (v. 20).
- IV. Opportunity facilitates John's murder (vs. 21-24).
- V. Herod orders John's murder (vs. 25-28).
- VI. The cost of discipleship is illustrated by John's murder (vs. 29-32).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 28, 2015

Passage: Mark 6:14-32

Memory Passage: Mark 6:19-20

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 6:14-29, Matt. 2:1-19, & Acts 12:1-25.** Compare the accounts of King Herod (Matt. 2), Herod Antipas (King Herod's son, Herod the Tetrarch, the "King" Herod in Mark 6), and Herod Agrippa (King Herod's grandson and Herod Antipas' nephew, Acts 12). What similarities do you see in these biblical accounts?
- (b) Why do you think Mark refers to Antipas as "King" Herod when this was not his official title?
- (c) Explain why some people think Jesus is John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others a prophet like the ones of old?
- (d) Why do people have difficulty recognizing Him as Messiah?
- (e) Why does Herod think Jesus is John the Baptist raised from the dead?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 6:14-29.** The Herodian family tree is bewildering, but here is how Antipas, Herodias, and Phillip are connected: Herodias is the daughter of Antipas' half brother, Herod Aristobulus, so Herodias is Antipas' half niece. She was married to Phillip, another of Antipas' half brothers. Herodias agreed to marry Antipas, which she probably considered a good political move, only if he would divorce his current wife, the daughter of Aretas IV, ruler of Nabatea. Both Herod and Phillip are sons of King Herod (Herod the Great) who was an Idumean appointed by Rome to rule over Israel & Judah. Got it!?!?
- (b) Why, exactly, did Herod have John thrown into prison (v. 17), and why is this important for our story?
- (c) Why was John correct in calling Herod into repentance for, "having his brother's wife" (cf. Lev. 18:16; 20:21)?
- (d) John seems to have been continually calling Herod into repentance. What do you think those conversations were like, and how did John have such a regular audience with such a powerful man?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 6:14-29.** What caused Herodias' grudge against John, and what stopped her from carrying out her desires?
- (b) Explain Herod's confusion (he feared John, but protected him; he was perplexed by his words but heard him gladly).
- (c) Herod knew John was a righteous and holy man. How else would you describe him considering his actions with Herod?
- (d) How do people describe you when you stand for righteousness in your public square?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 6:14-29.** Why did Herodias' daughter please Herod when she danced?
- (b) How was Herod's rash, but well-known, promise the same as King Ahasuerus' in Esther 5:3 & 7:2? How was it different?
- (c) Over what was Herod "exceedingly sorry?"
- (d) Describe Herod's character and the consequences of his actions as revealed in vs. 20-28? Compare Herod's actions and character with John the Baptist's actions and character.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 6:14-32.** What purposes does Mark accomplish by "sandwiching" the story of John the Baptist's death in between the sending out on mission of the disciples and their return in vs. 30-32?
- (b) What forums have you been presented in which you are standing, or should be standing, for righteousness?
- (c) At the time of this writing the Supreme Court has yet to rule, but how could their ruling increase your opportunities to stand for righteousness, and how are you preparing to act in a John the Baptist-like manner?

DATE: June 28, 2015

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