

## WHO DO YOU SAY I AM – The Gospel of Mark (Mark 6:)

Pastor Jän 022719

### A Shocking Story of Degeneracy

**Mark 6:14-20** King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup> Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!" <sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. <sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup> So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, <sup>20</sup> because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

**King Herod** (v. 14): This is Herod Antipas who also put Jesus on trial. He had been married to another woman but divorced her to marry Herodias.

**Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married** (v. 17) Philip (also known as Herod II) was the half-brother of Herod Antipas and her own uncle. She had a daughter by Herod II, who was Salome.

Herod Antipas and Herodias had an affair in Rome under the nose of Herod II at his own residence in Rome.

The Jewish historian Josephus wrote this:

*Herodias took upon her to confound the laws of our country and divorced herself from her husband while he was alive and was married to Herod Antipas.*

Zondervan's "All the Women of the Bible" states:

*Among the female characters in God's portrait gallery there are many wicked women as we are discovering, but surely Herodias stands out among them as one of the most vile and vicious.*

**But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"** (v. 16): The powerful reputation of Jesus stimulated and terrorized Herod Antipas' conscience in regard to what he had allowed with John the Baptist.

### The Gruesome Account

**For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."** (v. 18): The point here is that John the Baptist had fearlessly confronted Herod and Herodias about their unlawful marriage.

Again "All the Women of the Bible" states:

*Amid the putrefying influence of the palace, however, there was one man who knew no fear, John the Baptist. Herod "feared" him and regarded him as "a just man" and whom "he heard gladly." Herod found music in the preacher's message until he sternly rebuked the king by saying of Herodias, "It is not lawful for thee to have her."*

**But she was not able to, because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man** (vv. 19-20): Though Herodias wanted to kill John the Baptist, Herod protected him out of justifiable fear of the Lord.

**Proverbs 1:7** *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

**Proverbs 10:27** *The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.*

**He was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him (v. 20):** This is a sad portrait of a man led by his passions who, yet, liked to listen to John's sermons. Herod Antipas is a prototype of many Christians who come to church, like the messages, yet, do not get their act together.

**Mark 6:21-29** *Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." <sup>23</sup> And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom." <sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered. <sup>25</sup> At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup> The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup> and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.*

**The daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod (v. 22):** Salome probably did a pretty erotic dance that was a big hit at the banquet. This story is loaded with lots of gender-specific information that serve as warnings against our sinful tendencies.

Salome is a warning to women regarding the use of sexuality to tempt men.

**Proverbs 7:21-23** *With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk <sup>22</sup> All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose <sup>23</sup> till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.*

**And he promised her with an oath...up to half my kingdom (v. 23):** Here men are warned against falling into sin and stupidity because of one's sexual passions.

**John the Baptist on a platter." The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths (vv. 25-26):** Here the chickens come home to roost and the devil sprung his trap against Herod Antipas.

**He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother (v. 28):** Herodias embodies the tendency of women to A) hold on to a grudge, then get even; B) tempt men into sin; and— together with willing men—corrupt institutions ordained by God.

**1 Timothy 2:13-15** *For Adam was formed first, then Eve. <sup>14</sup> And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. <sup>15</sup> But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.*

## Take-Aways

1. Men and women both need to admit that they have gender moral weaknesses.
2. Herod Antipas' life is a giant warning sign for Christians to examine their lives and not float along merely "liking" good sermons.