

## I. John Was An Unashamed Prophet (17-18)

A. He was willing to declare what is right (18) - “For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.”

B. He was willing to suffer for what is right (17) - “For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her.”

## II. John Was An Object of Fury (19-25)

A. John’s boldness agitated people (19-20a) - “And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe.”

B. John’s ministry intrigued people (20b) - “When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.” **Herod had many interactions with John**

C. John’s message infuriated people (21-25) - “But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. 22 For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you.” 23 And he vowed to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom.” 24 And she went out and said to her mother, “For what should I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.” 25 And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.””

## III. John Was a Kingdom Martyr (26-29)

A. Everyone makes their choice (26) - “And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her.”

B. There are consequences to righteous living (27) - “And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison...”

C. The wicked rejoice for a season (28) - “...and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.”

D. The righteous press on in hope (29) - “When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.”