

John the Baptist Beheaded - Mark 6:14-29

Topics: Doubt, Holiness, Lust, Murder, Persecution, Power, Sacrifice, Sin

Open It

- * 1. Who do your friends and acquaintances think Jesus is?
- 2. What do most people believe about miracles and the supernatural?
- 3. In what sense do you think it is or is not harder to believe in miracles today than it was in New Testament times?

Explore It

- 4. How did Herod hear about Jesus' miracles? (6:14)
- 5. What were people saying about Jesus? Why? (6:14-16)
- * 6. What do Herod's actions throughout this episode say about the way sin operates in a person's life? (6:14-29)
- 7. What was it about Jesus that kept most people from believing that He was the Messiah? (6:14-16)
- 8. What did Herod think of Jesus? (6:16)
- * 9. Why had Herod arrested and imprisoned John the Baptist? (6:17-18)
- 10. What had John told Herod that caused Herodias to hold a grudge against John? (6:18-19)
- 11. How was John's condemnation of Herod's adulterous marriage related to the central message of John's preaching? (6:18)
- 12. Why did Herod fear and protect John? (6:20)
- 13. What did Mark mean when he wrote, "Finally the opportune time came"? (6:21)
- * 14. What happened at the party described in this passage? (6:21-28)
- 15. What caused Herod to offer Herodias's daughter almost anything she wanted? (6:22-23)
- 16. Why did Herod make a foolish promise? (6:22-23)
- 17. What resulted from Herod's foolish promise? (6:24-25)
- 18. How did Herod respond to the girl's request? (6:26-28)
- 19. What became of John? (6:29)

Get It

- 20. What false ideas about Jesus do people entertain today?
- 21. How should we as Christians respond to others who malign the name of Christ?
- 22. When has it been difficult for you to confront someone about sin, as it was for John to confront Herod?
- 23. What responsibility do Christians have to confront non-believers with their sin and to tell them of the remedy that Christ offers?
- * 24. What can we learn from Herod's negative example about preventing sin from "snowballing" or getting out of control?
- * 25. How do you think Christians can keep one another accountable?
- 26. How can you guard against holding a grudge against another person?
- 27. Herod knew John to be a righteous and holy man; how do you think people view you?
- 28. How can we guard against making foolish promises?
- 29. What do you need to change in your life to have a stronger witness for Christ?

Apply It

- 30. Whom do you need to confront sometime soon? How can you?
- * 31. What concrete action can you take to prevent a certain area of sin in your personal life from controlling you? When?