



“Spiritual Crossroads”

Mark 6:14-29 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
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Introduction – Mark includes the story of John the Baptist’s death for a number of reasons, but mainly to point out Herod’s missed opportunity to believe, because of his doubts.

I. The Rise of King Herod.

- A. The name “Herod.”
- B. The title “Herod.”
- C. The ruling Herods were miserable men.
- D. The Herodian dynasty.
 - 1. Herod Archelaus.
 - 2. Herod Phillip.
 - 3. Herod Antipas.
- E. Herod Antipas was an awful governor, and was deposed and exiled in 39 AD.
- F. Mark’s story is a flashback.

II. The Doubts of King Herod.

- A. Because Antipas married Herodias, his niece and brother’s wife, he came under John the Baptist’s public denunciation of what he did.
 - 1. Herodias wanted John killed, but only managed to have him put in prison.
 - 2. She couldn’t put him to death, because Herod Antipas had doubts about him and protected him.
- B. Herod was fascinated by John.
 - 1. He “liked” to hear him.
 - 2. He was “perplexed” (aporia) by him.
 - 3. Herod was divided and had doubts about John.
- C. Doubt is faith at a crossroads.

III. The “Way-Gee” of Our Doubts.

- A. Doubts are fueled by our fears.
- B. John challenged Herod’s worldview.
- C. Doubts are the crossroads of fear and faith and are only resolved by a decision.
- D. Danger. In remaining stuck in doubt, we may miss an opportunity, and the choice will be made for us.
- E. Herodias’ opportunity for evil: Herod’s birthday party.

Conclusion