

Jesus on the Issues

rejection
future
questions
significance
helplessness
uncertainty

Mark 6:14–29

Background of John the Baptist

Priestly heritage

Luke 1:5-7, 13-17

Preparing the way for Christ

John 3:25-30

Imprisonment

¹⁷ For Herod had sent soldiers to arrest and imprison John as a favor to Herodias. She had been his brother Philip’s wife, but Herod had married her. ¹⁸ John had been telling Herod, “It is against God’s law for you to marry your brother’s wife.” ¹⁹ So Herodias bore a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But without Herod’s approval she was powerless, ²⁰ for Herod respected John; and knowing that he was a good and holy man, he protected him. Herod was greatly disturbed whenever he talked with John, but even so, he liked to listen to him.

Mark 6:17-19 NLT

Martyrdom

²¹ Herodias’s chance finally came on Herod’s birthday. He gave a party for his high government officials, army officers, and the leading citizens of Galilee. ²² Then his daughter, also named Herodias, came in and performed a dance that greatly pleased Herod and his guests. “Ask me for anything you like,” the king said to the girl, “and I will give it to you.” ²³ He even vowed, “I will give you whatever you ask, up to half my kingdom!”

²⁴ She went out and asked her mother, “What should I ask for?” Her mother told her, “Ask for the head of John the Baptist!”

²⁵ So the girl hurried back to the king and told him, “I want the head of John the Baptist, right now, on a tray!”

²⁶ Then the king deeply regretted what he had said; but because of the vows he had made in front of his guests, he couldn’t refuse her. ²⁷ So he immediately sent an executioner to the prison to cut off John’s head and bring it to him. The soldier beheaded John in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a tray, and gave it to the girl, who took it to her mother. ²⁹ When John’s disciples heard what had happened, they came to get his body and buried it in a tomb.

Mark 6:21-29 NLT

Background of Herod Antipas

Son of Herod the Great
Builder, including the city Tiberius
Co-conspirator in Jesus’ death
Plotted against Agrippa
Exiled by Emperor Caligula

Assessment of Herod’s life

A guilty man (v.16)
A weak man (v.17)
An immoral man (v.17)
An indecisive man (v.19, 20)
An impulsive man (v.23)
An insecure man (v.26)
Consider Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Assessment of John’s life

As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written: “‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist...” (Jesus speaking of John) *Matthew 11:7-11a*

A life wasted

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?
Mark 8:36

A life invested

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” *1 Corinthians 2:9 NIRV*

Next Steps

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NOTES - The icons below may be helpful as you take notes on the outline.


