

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself... Matthew 14:13 (ESV)



Application

1. Herod is a vivid illustration of what can happen to someone enslaved to sexual sin.
2. John is an example of what discipleship may cost us.

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."
Mark 8:34–35 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 6:14-29 to familiarize yourself with the passage. What can you learn about sin and its consequences from Herod and Herodias? What can you learn about discipleship from John the Baptist?
2. Herod and Herodias had a problem with sexual sin, like many people today. Proverbs 5:1-23; 6:20-35 are words of wisdom from a father to a son about avoiding a trap of a seductive woman. What can we learn from these verses about the consequences of sexual sin and how to avoid sexual sin?
3. What can we learn about the dangers of sexual immorality and how to avoid it from these verses written by Paul? 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Thessalonians 4:3
4. Herod was plagued with guilt for the murder of John the Baptist. What do these verses teach us about what God does with the guilt of our sin when we trust in Jesus? Psalm 103:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 32:5; Acts 2:38
5. John the Baptist was the greatest prophet, but he paid the ultimate price for speaking the truth. Jesus was even greater, and they killed him. How does knowing what John and Jesus experienced because they were faithful to God prepare us for what we will face when we live faithful to God today? See also (2 Timothy 3:12; Acts 14:22; John 12:25)

Mark 6:14-29 – The Death Of John The Baptist

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Herod's Fascination

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."
Mark 6:14–16 (ESV)

Herod's Family

Herod's Fear

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. Mark 6:17 (ESV)

For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Mark 6:18 (ESV)

And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly. Mark 6:19–20 (ESV)

Herod's Folly

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. Mark 6:21 (ESV)

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." And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." Mark 6:22–23 (ESV)

And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." 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." Mark 6:24–25 (ESV)

And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. Mark 6:26 (ESV)

And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. Mark 6:27–28 (ESV)

When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb. Mark 6:29 (ESV)