

Murder At A Party

Herod heard about John (Mark 6)

14: some thought Jesus was a resurrected John, Lk.9:7-8. (Jn.10:41)

15: everyone had his opinion

16: emphatic: “I” beheaded John...

17: how / why it happened

Herod's real problem:
not John, but himself

I. Strike One, 17-18

- Doctrinal / Moral

What's the problem here?

- John's preaching
- Herodias' pull

John:
“not lawful” – what law?
Lv.20:21, brother's wife
ALSO...

1. **John's mission:** prepare people for Lord, Mk.1:3-4.
2. **John's message:** same as Lord's, Mt.19:3-6.

What is John's message? (I)

John's message: same as Lord's, Mt.19:3-6.

- Jesus opposed Pharisee position (7-9) – they justified MDR on basis of Dt.24
 - John's baptism of repentance prepared people for Jesus, Ac.19:4
 - Mt.19:8: Jesus returned to Gen.1-2.

Would John not agree?

What is John's message? (II)

John's message: same as Lord's, Mt.19:3-6.

Pharisees:

is divorce lawful...?
(Mt.19:3)

Jesus:

what God joins, do not separate (4-6; Gn.1-2)

Pharisees:

Moses' command...
(Mt.19:7; Dt.24)

Jesus:

hard hearts; return to
beginning (4-6, 8-9)

Mt.19:9, divorce, marry another = adultery

Herod: bound to one, joined to another (Ro.7)

I. Strike One, 17-18 – Doctrinal / Moral

II. Strike Two, 19-20
– Personal

Herodias wants to kill John (19)

'No one talks to me like that!'

- Ignore message: kill conscience.
- Attack John: fight against God.
- Day coming when Christians will be persecuted for teaching truth.

Herodias wants to kill John (19)

- Herod feared John (20)
- Herod respected John (just, holy prophet)
- Herod protected John (from Herodias)
- Herod heard John often
- Herod . . . (variants):
 1. was perplexed (respect for John vs passion for Herodias?) . . . or . . .
 2. did many things . . .
- Herod heard John gladly (liked to listen...)

Herod's fortress, Machaerus



Herod's fortress, Machaerus



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Herod's fortress, Machaerus



Herod

- Desert fortress, palace, 3800 feet
- Married daughter of Aretas (Arabia, Petra)
- Visiting brother Philip at Rome, stole his wife, Herodias (Herod's niece / sister-in-law)
- She hated truth, thus despised John
- Herodias had passion to make Herod king
- His appeal for a throne ended in misery of Lyons (Gaul) at command of Caligula

I. Strike One, 17-18 – Doctrinal / Moral

II. Strike Two, 19-20 – Personal

III. Strike Three, 21-29
– Murder

Should have been a happy occasion

- Herod could kill prophet, but not own conscience (yet) 14, 16.
- Sinned against light he had, 17-20.
- Herod's birthday bash...lascivious daughter, 21-22.
- Foolish oath (Herod lost his head, then John's) 23. Tetrarch, not king (1/4 king?)

Should have been a happy occasion

- Sinful desire, 24.
- Folly of revenge, 24-25.
- Pride led to compromise, sin, judgment, 24f.
- John ruined? No, 25-28.
- Celebrate as eternal misery awaits, 21-29.

Summary:

- **Herod:** 'my way' leads to eternal disaster.
- **Herodias:** revenge is a boomerang.

She manipulates her husband /
daughter – kills John . . .

But Jesus lives! Ps.2:4

I. Strike One, 17-18 – Doctrinal / Moral

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IV. John's Upward Blessing
– Promotion

- John fulfilled prophecy.
- John fulfilled his mission.
 - From active, productive life to sudden stop
 - Mt. 11 – why does Jesus do nothing?
 - Elijah also became discouraged, 1 K. 19
 - John loves souls, thus obeys: *dangerous sermons*
- John applied truth to situation. $1 + 1 = 2$.
BUT: $1 + 1 = 1$ (marriage)
 $1 + 1 - 1 + 1$ (adultery)

- John fulfilled prophecy.
- John fulfilled his mission.
- John applied truth to situation.
- John confined...God overruled.
- Character: Mt.11:11, none greater.
- Eternity rights all wrongs.

So what?

1. John's death – bitter woman, immoral girl, spineless king
 - a. John, the second Elijah, meets Herodias, the second Jezebel
 - b. God's people are not exempt from bad things in this life. Mk.10:29-30

So what?

1. John's death – bitter woman, immoral girl, spineless king
2. John's death was quick; Lord's was long

“Truth forever on the scaffold.
Wrong forever on the throne.
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
and, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
keeping watch, above His own”

–*The Present Crisis*, James Russell Lowell

So what?

1. John's death – bitter woman, immoral girl, spineless king
2. John's death was quick; Lord's was long.
3. Herod finally met Jesus – Lk.23:6-11
 - Herod/Pilate: cordial agreement of wicked men at Lord's crucifixion. [Ac.4:24-28]
 - Caligula banished Herod (Herodias) to Gaul; they will meet Jesus again, *as judge*.
 - There is a difference in 'good living' and 'living good.'