

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

1. How did Herod hear about Jesus' miracles? ([6:14](#))
2. What were people saying about Jesus? Why? ([6:14–16](#))
3. *What do Herod's actions throughout this episode say about the way sin operates in a person's life? ([6:14–29](#))
4. What was it about Jesus that kept most people from believing that He was the Messiah? ([6:14–16](#))
5. What did Herod think of Jesus? ([6:16](#))
6. *Why had Herod arrested and imprisoned John the Baptist? ([6:17–18](#))

7. What had John told Herod that caused Herodias to hold a grudge against John?
([6:18–19](#))
8. How was John’s condemnation of Herod’s adulterous marriage related to the central message of John’s preaching? ([6:18](#))
9. Why did Herod fear and protect John? ([6:20](#))
10. What did Mark mean when he wrote, “Finally the opportune time came”? ([6:21](#))
11. *What happened at the party described in this passage? ([6:21–28](#))
12. What caused Herod to offer Herodias’s daughter almost anything she wanted?
([6:22–23](#))
13. Why did Herod make a foolish promise? ([6:22–23](#))
14. What resulted from Herod’s foolish promise? ([6:24–25](#))
15. How did Herod respond to the girl’s request? ([6:26–28](#))
16. What became of John? ([6:29](#))

Get It

1. What false ideas about Jesus do people entertain today?
2. How should we as Christians respond to others who malign the name of Christ?

3. When has it been difficult for you to confront someone about sin, as it was for John to confront Herod?
4. What responsibility do Christians have to confront non-believers with their sin and to tell them of the remedy that Christ offers?
5. *What can we learn from Herod's negative example about preventing sin from "snowballing" or getting out of control?
6. *How do you think Christians can keep one another accountable?
7. How can you guard against holding a grudge against another person?
8. Herod knew John to be a righteous and holy man; how do you think people view you?
9. How can we guard against making foolish promises?
10. What do you need to change in your life to have a stronger witness for Christ?

Apply It

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