

## Sermon Notes

### How Should We Respond to the Truth of the Gospel

Matthew 14.1-12

July 2, 2023

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus. 2 “This is John the Baptist,” he told his servants. “He has been raised from the dead, and that’s why miraculous powers are at work in him.”

3 For Herod had arrested John, chained[a] him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, 4 since John had been telling him, “It’s not lawful for you to have her.” 5 Though Herod wanted to kill John, he feared the crowd since they regarded John as a prophet.

6 When Herod’s birthday celebration came, Herodias’s daughter danced before them[b] and pleased Herod. 7 So he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. 8 Prompted by her mother, she answered, “Give me John the Baptist’s head here on a platter.” 9 Although the king regretted it, he commanded that it be granted because of his oaths and his guests. 10 So he sent orders and had John beheaded in the prison. 11 His head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. 12 Then his disciples came, removed the corpse,[c] buried it, and went and reported to Jesus.

Main Idea - How should we respond to the truth of the Gospel?

Outline -  
Confusion  
Denial  
Anger  
Devotion

This is Herod Antipas; son of Herod the Great that tried to have Jesus killed as an infant.

Us - Is this really the better way? Is this biblical truth really important?

If Herod really believed that John the Baptist was a good and right prophet, he would have stood up against his wife and his guest.

We get so caught up in what we want, our sin, that we don’t care what the consequences are.

**Matthew 11.11** “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one greater than John the Baptist has appeared, but the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Matthew 17.11-13** “Elijah is coming and will restore everything,” he replied. **12** “But I tell you: Elijah has already come, and they didn’t recognize him. On the contrary, they did whatever they pleased to him. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” **13** Then the disciples understood that he had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

Even though we aren’t John the Baptist, as much as he models Christ we want to model him.

This passage isn’t about political protest - it about how Jesus is God.

### **Grow Group Discussion Questions**

- 1.) What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) Is there a certain truth about Jesus that you have tried to deny? Have you had a friend call you out on a sin and how did you respond?
- 3.) How do you see yourself as Herod or Herodias in this story?
- 4.) How can we encouraged by John’s story?
- 5.) Is there a sin that you know someone else is committing that you need to confront? Do you need to pray for discernment on how to do this?
- 6.) How does the reaction of the disciples of John the Baptist bring us encouragement today?
- 7.) From you Grow Group time, what is an idea or two from your discussion that you can work to apply this week?