

Date: August 23, 2026
Series: Mark: The Sovereign, Suffering Servant
Title: The Timeless Testimony of John the Baptist
Text: Mark 6:14-29



INTRODUCTION

Note: Mark uses John's life and death to encourage right thinking about Jesus, right thinking about holiness, and right thinking about the cost of following Jesus.

Mark 6:14-29

Note: The fear of man, a love for sin, and the desire for human praise will absolutely choke your love for Christ and your commitment to truth!

I. THE TIMELESS TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

A. The Truth Confronts Our Sin: We will either conform our lives to truth, or we will spiral downward from one compromise to the next. (verses 14-20)

Question #1 - Who is Herod?

Answer: This is Herod Antipas, one of Herod the Great's four sons, who inherited a fourth of his father's kingdom.

Luke 13:31-32

Question #2 - Why is Herod so confused about Jesus' identity?

Answer: In general, there was (and is!) much confusion surrounding Jesus' identity, but Herod is especially confused because his thinking is shaped by a guilty conscience!

Note: Being curious and fascinated about the truth is not the same thing as loving the truth or submitting to the truth!

James 1:22-25 and Mark 1:1

Question #3 - Why would John make such a big deal about Herod's marriage?

Answer: Because all sin is deadly and destructive. Because God is holy and His way of righteousness is best for us. Because marriage matters to God and we have no right to redefine it or twist it into something that undermines God's good purpose and will.

Romans 6:23 and 1 John 2:15-17

B. The Fear of Man Fuels Compromise: We must choose! We can either live for the cheap, shallow praise of man, or we can live for the unfading glory of God. (verses 21-26)

1 Peter 2:16-17; Proverbs 29:25; Psalm 23:6

C. Faithfulness to Christ will be Costly: John lost his head, but his life, inheritance, reward, joy, testimony, and standing in Christ endures forever! (verses 27-29)

Philippians 1:21; Romans 8:18; John 3:30

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Why does Mark return to the life, ministry, and death of John the Baptist?
2. How should we respond to John's life and death? Mourn for him? Imitate him? Feel sorry for him?
3. Where do you see the fear of man in your life? Why is the fear of man so spiritually dangerous?
4. Why did John confront Herod on his sinful marriage? What does John's example teach us?
5. What has following Jesus "cost" you? How have you cultivated an eternal mindset/perspective?