

**Reflection Questions:** What am I willing to die for? Why? Do I confront sin in love when I see it? Why or why not? Do I experience any suffering or persecution because of my faith in Jesus? Why or why not? Should I?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



The Murder of John the Baptist

*Sermon*  
*Notes*

March 19, 2023

1. Herod and Jesus (14-16)

2. Herod and John the Baptist (17-29)

#### Quotes to Ponder

*Herod is revealed to be an immoral, vacillating, and pathetic ruler, who takes the easy way out to save face rather than standing up for what is right. He is the antithesis of John, who spoke the truth even at the risk of his life.*

Mark Strauss

*This is what happens to one of God's choicest saints. Come to Jesus, and you might get your head cut off: there's the message.*

Derek Thomas

*Every commandment of Jesus is a call to die.*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*The one whom Jesus called the greatest man born of woman (Matthew 11:11) is sacrificed to a cocktail wazer!*

James E. Edwards

*Unless we silence sin, sin will silence conscience. Unless we heed God's Word, the day may come when we despise God's Son — and then God will have nothing more to say to us.*

Sinclair B. Ferguson

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1. What in the text/sermon impacted you? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?
2. Read this account in the following accounts, noting what you learn from each. Are there any contradictions? If so, how do you solve them?  
*Matthew 14:1-12* —  
  
*Mark 6:14-29* —  
  
*Luke 9:7-9* —
3. Why do you think Mark places this account between the sending out of the disciples (*Mark 6:7-13*) and their reporting back to Jesus (*Mark 6:30*)?
4. Why is it important that Jesus name had become well known (*Mark 6:14*) rather than the names of the disciples?
5. Why might Mark have given such a detailed account of John's death?
6. What did John confront Herod and Herodias about (*Mark 6:18*)? What Scriptures might he have used to do this?
7. According to the following verses, how had Israel treated God's prophets in the past?  
*1 Kings 22:27* —     *2 Chronicles 24:20-21* —  
  
*2 Kings 2:23* —     *Hebrews 11:37* —  
  
*Jeremiah 26:20-23* —
8. How does Herod explain the popularity of Jesus (*Mark 6:16*)?
9. What does Herod fear in this passage (*Mark 6:14-29*)? Why?
10. What is Herod's response to Herodias' daughter request (*Mark 6:26*)? Why?
11. What parallels do you see between Elijah's conflict with Ahab and Jezebel (*1 Kings 16:29-19:3; 21:1-29*) and John's conflict with Herod and Herodias (*Mark 6:17-28*)?
12. How does the death of John the Baptist (*Mark 6:17-29*) cast an ominous shadow on Jesus' future?
13. What parallels do you see between Herod's treatment of John (*Mark 6:17-29*) and Pilate's treatment of Jesus (*Mark 15:1-47*)?
14. What do you think God feels when His people are persecuted and killed?
15. Why is suffering so much a part of God's will for our lives (*Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 3:12*)?  
  
How does God use suffering and persecution for His purposes?
16. What happened to John's disciples after his death (*Matthew 14:12; John 1:35, 40; 3:22-30*)?