

# The Gospel of Mark

## Lesson 13: Mark 6:14-29

### King Herod misidentifies Jesus as John the Baptist (vv. 14-16)

Matt. 14:1-2  
Luke 9:7-9

- This King Herod is Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great
- No recorded miracles are associated with John the Baptist
  - Herod connects Jesus' miracles with John's supposed resurrection
- Others consider Jesus important, but not the Messiah
  - Some say he is Elijah (Malachi 3:1; 4:5)
  - Others believe he is a prophet or the Prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19)

*From what condition is King Herod suffering?*

### John the Baptist is beheaded (vv. 17-29)

Matt. 14:3-12

- Herod had a complicated relationship with John
  - John called out Herod for his marriage to Herodias
  - Herod arrested him for his outspoken criticism of the marriage
    - There was a political aspect to this arrest as well
  - His wife Herodias would have killed John if she could
  - Herod, knowing John to be a good man, protected him
    - Herod was perplexed by John, but listened to him anyway

*What drove Herod's fascination with John?*

- Herodias' daughter Salome pleases Herod by dancing for him and his guests
  - Many critics have questioned a princess performing a lewd dance
    - Others point out the deep corruption in the house of Herod
  - Ego and probably drunkenness cause Herod to make a silly oath to her
    - His promise of up to half the kingdom echoes Esther 5:3, 6 and 7:2
  - Herodias seizes upon this and has Salome ask for John's head
- Ultimately Herod's oath means more to him than John's life
- John's disciples were allowed to take John's body and bury it

*Which Old Testament individual does Herodias resemble?*

*What does the result of Herod's oath teach us?*

*Why would Mark spend so much time on this incident?*