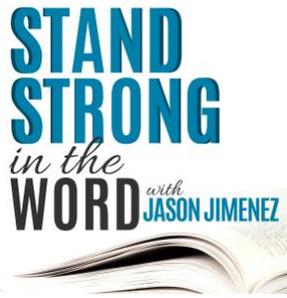


**#53 “WHEN YOUR MISTAKES COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU”
Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29; Luke 9:7-9**

This account about John the Baptist’s beheading is a flashback. Due to the rise in fame of Jesus, and the reporting that He has even resurrected a dead person (Lk. 7:11-17), and His disciples are performing miracles and casting out demons (Matt. 10)—Herod is scared because he believes these are all signs that John has been resurrected and is coming after him.

MATTHEW 14:1-12	MARK 6:14-29	LUKE 9:7-9
<p>At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus, ² and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.” ³ For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, ⁴ because John had been saying to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” ⁵ And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet. ⁶ But when Herod’s birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company and pleased Herod, ⁷ so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. ⁸ Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter.” ⁹ And the king was sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given. ¹⁰ He sent and had John beheaded in the prison, ¹¹ and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. ¹² And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus.</p>	<p>¹⁴ King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.” ¹⁵ But others said, “He is Elijah.” And others said, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” ¹⁷ For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because he had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly. ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²² For when Herodias’s daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you.” ²³ And he vowed to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of</p>	<p>⁷ Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, ⁸ by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. ⁹ Herod said, “John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?” And he sought to see him.</p>

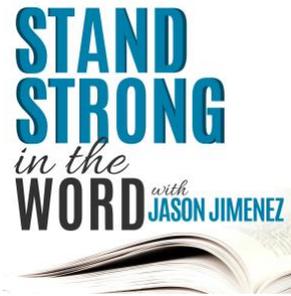


	<p>my kingdom.”²⁴ And she went out and said to her mother, “For what should I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.”²⁵ And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”²⁶ And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her.²⁷ And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison²⁸ and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.²⁹ When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.</p>	
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1. King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some said, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.” (Mk. 6:14)—King Herod was also known as Herod Antipas, one of three sons to Herod the Great.

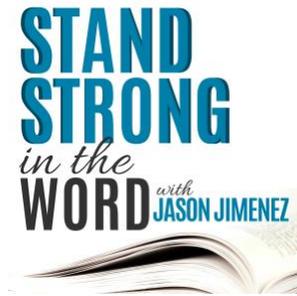
- A. “Herod Antipas was tetrarch (ruler of a fourth part of his father’s kingdom) of Galilee and Perea under the aegis of Rome from 4 b.c. to a.d. 39 (cf. Matt. 14:1; Luke 3:19; 9:7). Officially he was not a king, but Mark’s use of the title probably reflected local custom in view of Herod’s covetous ambitions.”¹
- B. **“He is Elijah.” And others said, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” (Mk. 6:15)**— The people were unable to explain who Jesus was exactly because His ministry reflected that of John’s (Mk. 1:4-9), the prophet Malachi prophesied Elijah (who never died—2 Kings 2:11) would return (Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6), or that Jesus was some other prophet. But none of these people surrounding Herod believed Jesus to be the Messiah.
- C. **But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” (Mk. 6:16)**—You can sense the guilty conscious of Herod, and the superstitious fear he had not knowing what divine judgement might come his way. Notice Herod believed in the miracle of physical resurrection.
- D. **Herod said, “John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?” And he sought to see him. (Lk. 9:9)**—Herod is still haunted by

¹ John D. Grassmick, “Mark,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 128.



having John beheaded. The play on of words indicates Herod still suffered with the imagery of John's bloody head.

2. ***For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly. (Mk. 6:17-20)***—Although Herod was not a Jew, John did not shy away from confronting him over violating God's laws (Lev. 18:16). This was John's effort to get Herod to repent of his sin for we know that Herod would often "hear" the words of John (see Mk. 5:20). ***Knowing he was a righteous man***—Herod was certainly conflicted. He knew John was righteous and would often listen to his preaching. However, like Jezebel influenced Ahab, so too did Herodias to Herod. She was able to turn him against John because she "had it in for him." ***Herod feared John***—He was in a continual state of fear. ***Greatly perplexed***—was in a state of perplexity/confusion.
 - A. ***And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet. (Matt. 14:5)***—Despite the draw Herod had over John and his words, it was the people who believed him to be a prophet, not Herod.
 - B. Lane writes, *"More weak than cruel, Herod listened to John with an undeniable fascination. John's word left him perplexed, and in anguish. Yet he found a strange pleasure in the authoritative preaching of this holy man, whose stringent life gave added power to his probing word. Too weak to follow John's counsel, he nevertheless had to listen."*
3. ***But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." (Mk. 6:21-25)***—At the party would have been nobles, military officers, and prominent people of high society. ***Herodias's daughter came in and danced***—Salome (Herodias' daughter) gave a sexual dance initiated by her mother. People of high class did not dance publicly, especially provocatively. This reveals the immoral behavior of this family. ***Up to half my kingdom***—This phrase was not to be taken literally. Herod didn't have a kingdom. He was only the tetrarch of Galilee and Perea.



4. ***And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. (Mk. 6:26)***—The Greek word for ***exceedingly sorrowful*** is *perilypos*, which is a graphic expression of intense sorrow and distress. This same word is used to describe the agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mk. 14:34). Herod feared the repercussions of murdering a prophet of God. History states that Herod and Herodias eventually committed suicide after Herod's nephew, King Agrippa, accused him of treason and exiled him.
5. ***And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. (Mk. 6:27-28)***—This act points to the hatred and vile behavior of the Romans to the Jews.
6. ***When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb. (Mk. 6:29)***—No doubt the report of John's death deeply troubled Jesus.
7. ***The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. (Mk. 6:30)***—The disciples return from Jesus sending them out to heal, evangelize and cast out demons (see Matt. 10).