



Unrepentant Sins Lead to Daunting Results Mark 6:14-29

September 1, 2019
Pastor Trevor Cooper

Good morning church! What a blessing it was to have my colleagues and professor from Gateway Seminary with us last week. Well, today as we walk through Mark together, we get to Chapter 6 verse 14 that seems like an irregular flow of these scriptures. In movies, this is called Cross-Cutting which is switching back and forth between two or more scenes in different locations that are occurring simultaneously in order to create the feeling of Parallel Action. Jesus is out ministering, and His name is becoming more known in the land while the scene switches to King Herod, who was the son of Herod the Great. He was a ruler, known as a tetrarch, over a dependent state of Galilee and Perea. Herod heard some news about Jesus' disciples preaching and miracle working Galilee and truly thought Jesus was the risen John the Baptist. Then later, the scene switches back to Jesus. Keep in mind, Mark is straightforward, not writing a full biography or even a complete account of Jesus' public ministry.

*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." ¹⁵But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." ¹⁷For 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. ¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, ²⁰for 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. **Mark 6:14-20***

Herod heard of Jesus' name from the disciples' recent preaching and miracle working in Galilee. According to verse 16, he truly thought Jesus was the risen **John the Baptist**. Some thought the same thing while others suggested Jesus was Elijah. This identification of Jesus was based on the Jewish expectation that the prophet Elijah would return prior to Messiah's coming. Others were willing to identify Jesus only as a great prophet, or one who was resuming the suspended line of OT prophets. Similarly, to add from **Robert Stein's book Jesus the Messiah: A Survey of the Life of Christ**. The "totalitarian" nature of Jesus' demand for allegiance must not be lost sight of or compromised. To

require loyalty greater than that due to father or mother, wife or children is to demand the kind of allegiance that only God can make. In light of all this, one cannot avoid the questions "Who is this who thinks that the world revolves around himself? A deranged egomaniac? A false prophet? Or can it be that this is indeed the King of kings and Lord of lords?" Do we really know who Jesus is? At times Jesus challenged people to reflect on who he was. Do we think of Jesus as a good teacher like the philosopher, a prophet like the Muslim, a lunatic like the agnostic or Lord like a disciple? Do we really know Jesus as our Lord and Savior? When we are confronted with the person of Jesus, we either believe in who he is and what he has done or we reject Him and have disbelief. **In the person of Jesus, one is confronted with SALVATION or JUDGMENT.** Scripture says, "all have sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard". We all have messy moments in our life and some more than others. Some of those mistakes create daunting effects in our life that is hard to overcome. We must repent of those sins and call upon Jesus to forgive us so that we can forgive ourselves. I want us to see three daunting results that Herod was challenged by because of his unrepented sin:

The first result of an unrepentant sin was a life of UNREPENTANCE Leads to a Life of REGRET and FEAR. Herod was deeply troubled and terrified to hear that John the Baptist had risen from the grave. He must have thought, "Is he coming back for me because his blood is on my hands?" Herodias was a daughter of Aristobulus, one of the sons of Herod the Great. Other sons of Herod the Great included Herod Antipas and Herod Philip. After marrying her half-uncle Herod Philip, Herodias left him for an adulterous relationship with his brother, Herod Antipas. Such were the loose morals, typical of the Herodian dynasty, which John the Baptist preached against. **Leviticus 18:16, 20** says "You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness. ²⁰ You shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her." **The Message was HEARD but NOTHING was done.** How often are we like heard where we hear the message of God or the truth that God gives and we receive by saying, "oh, that was a great message" or "God spoke to me and showed me what I need to do". Yet we never do anything about it. The preferred reading in verse 20 is "he was very perplexed," which indicates that Herod's interaction with John left him in great internal conflict – a moral struggle between his lust for Herodias and the prodding of his guilty conscience. In previous verses, Herod showed that he could not forget the evil he had done in beheading John the Baptist and that his conscience had led him to the eerie fear that John was back from the dead. Herod's intention was to protect John from the plots of Herodias by keeping him bound while imprisoned. But ultimately John was killed, and Herod regretted it and fear was constantly on his mind.

The second result Herod faced of his unrepentant sin was a Life of CONTINUOUS SIN Leads to a Life of REMORSE and GUILT. Herod did not want to disappoint his guests or his family by putting his fame and reputation on the line. He would have lost all that his world had to offer him. He accepted this adulterous lifestyle and exposed his family to this continuous lifestyle of sin.

“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 my kingdom.” **Mark 6:21-23**

Herod involved his family in his unrepentance. In verse 22, Salome, her daughter by Philip did a solo dance with highly suggestive hand and body movements, comparable to a modern dance of J-Lo or Cardi-B would do portrayed in a music video. Most of us know of the music industry being provocative and lustful toward women. Some of us know who J-Lo is from the past but one of the recent female artists is Cardi-B who expresses to our teenage girls that they can do and be whatever they want by putting yourself out there inappropriately. Like today, it was unusual and inappropriate for Herod to allow such a scene before his guests. Herod had another opportunity to repent but instead, continued to not disappoint his guests and continue in his sin. If we do this and never turn away from our sin, know that it will grow and get worse than it already is. This is what Satan does with our sin. It steals our time, our money, our relationships costing you more than you would ever want to pay. It steals and destroys your life and those around to the point of killing. Now, Herod chose to kill John the Baptist. We may not behead someone, but we may belittle another person.

The third result Herod had facing Unrepentant Sin was the COST of Following CHRIST Was Too Costly. In these last few verses, we realize Herod, as a monarch, felt bound because oaths were considered sacred and unbreakable. He did not want to kill John the Baptist. However, his reputation was on the line while John's life was being executed. Herod said, “Whatever you ask I will give” and what did she ask for?

“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^[e] 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.” **Mark 6:24-29**

Herod's reputation was on the line as he chose his fame for himself instead of doing what was right before God. The same is with us as believers and true followers of Jesus. **For the Christian, our REPUTATION is more about CHRIST than it is about our SELF.** John the Baptist understood that his life was no longer his own but he belonged to Christ. As Paul says in **Philippians 1:21**, “For to Live is Christ, die is to gain.” The cost was worth it to John to give his life, it must be worth it for me and it must be worth it for you. Have you

counted the cost? Every day we must live a life of repentance from sin and pursue God, so we do not face the daunting results of sin. **Will you choose salvation or judgment? Satan wants you to have regret and remorse, but God wants you to repent.** Jesus told his disciples, *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"* **Matthew 16:24-26** We must do something with our sin and not let it go unresolved or unrepentant. We have to give it to Jesus, or we will have fear even of past sins that we may never forget and it is hard to overcome. But there is freedom in forgiveness when we turn to God and turn away from our sin.