

aired on KALS March 4, 2003

Mark 6:16-28

16. “But when Herod heard *of it*, he kept saying, ‘John, whom I beheaded, has risen!’

17. For Herod himself had sent and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, 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. Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death and could not *do so*;

20. for Herod was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. And when he heard him, he was very perplexed; but he used to enjoy listening to him.

21. A strategic day came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his lords and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee;

22. and when the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests; and the king said to the girl, ‘Ask me for whatever you want and I will give it to you.’

23. And he swore to her, ‘Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you; up to half of my kingdom.’

24. And she went out and said to her mother, ‘What shall

I ask for?’ And she said, ‘The head of John the Baptist.’

25. Immediately she came in a hurry 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 although the king was very sorry, *yet* because of his oaths and because of his dinner guests, he was unwilling to refuse her.

27. Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded *him* to bring *back* his head. And he went and had him beheaded in the prison,

28. and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother.”

Indeed John was a great example of a preacher with back-bone and courage. When he got the chance he rebuked King Herod to his face for marrying his brother’s wife, while his brother Philip was still alive. He publicly called Herod to repentance stating, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife!”

For this stand he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded. Hebrews 12:4 calls out to us, “You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin.” John shed his own blood in preaching against sin.

In this day of common, accepted divorce and remarriage in the church, immorality by priests and pastors, and parents abusing or neglecting their children and stepchildren--how refreshing it is when preachers

stand up for God's ways. Marriage and conical rights, from the beginning are "till death do you part."

Church leaders, who teach most by their example, must fear God as they understand they will incur a stricter judgment--James 3:1. And parents are to sacrifice for the well being of their children--by God's design.

John's ministry was to prepare the people for Christ's coming. In doing so he was to "restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers." He understood that unchallenged sin, especially immorality and adultery, would destroy the family and society.

Today's preachers who are to prepare the people for Christ's second coming must have a similar conviction and message of repentance unto holiness and Godliness.