

# Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

## “RESISTANCE TO JESUS’ RULE”

**Big Idea:** Resistance intensifies as Jesus’ rule advances.

## Discuss

Herod Antipas, one of the sons of Herod the Great (the king referred to at Jesus’ birth), was ruling over Galilee as a Roman tetrarch when this story took place. Like his father, he was ambitious and hoped to have the Jews acknowledge him as their true king (versus grudgingly submitting to him only because of the authority and power of Rome). The other main character in this story, John the Baptist, cousin of Jesus, was an itinerant preacher, living in the desert and calling people to repent. Read Luke 3:1-14 for a fuller description of the man whom Jesus described in this way: “. . . [A]mong those born of women, there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist.” (Matt. 11:11)

- 1) 1 Timothy 4:2 talks about false teachers whose “consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.” In this story we see someone whose conscience is progressively deadened.
  - How was Herod’s initial treatment of John the Baptist different from the attitude of Herodias towards John?
  - What motivated Herod to give in to his stepdaughter’s request? If time, look at John 12:42-43 as you consider your answer.
  - Herod could be described as a passive resister of the call to repentance. How can passivity lead to the deadening of conscience?
- 2) Though John the Baptist spoke plainly to Herod about the lawlessness of his marriage to Herodias (she was the divorced wife of his still-living half-brother and his niece), we are told that Herod respected him and even “liked to listen to him.” (vv. 18 and 20)
  - What about John do you think made Herod fear and protect him, and why do you think Herod liked listening to him (the ESV says Herod “heard him gladly”)?
  - How can we share the gospel in such a way that we speak the truth boldly and yet don’t so offend that we find that no one will listen?
- 3) John the Baptist rebuked Herod and Herodias for a marriage that was prohibited by Levitical law. Herod and Herodias were not Jews, however, though of course they were ruling over primarily Jewish people.
  - For what reasons might we encourage non-believers to abide by God’s laws?
  - In the present political climate, what would you say are legitimate and effective ways to establish the moral teachings of the Bible in the laws of our city, state, and country?

DATE: February 4, 2018

SPEAKER: Joe/Frank

SERIES: Gospel of Mark

PASSAGE: Mark 6:14-29

## Pray

Praise God for the sure advance of his Kingdom that cannot be stopped by any form of resistance.

Confess the times that you, like Herod, have remained passive, perhaps listening with some interest to the truths of Scripture but failing to obey with gladness all that is being taught there.

Give thanks for the faithful witness and ministry of people like John the Baptist and for the ways in which God equips his servants to serve him with courage.

Pray that God would enable you to share his truth with others with boldness and love.

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Covenant College

### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Phil and Amina serving in a sensitive area