

## **Sermon Notes Mark 6:12-29. The truth will come out.** 11/7/21

### **Introduction.**

**1. John the Baptist** – a fearless preacher of the truth

**2. Herod** – knows John is a righteous and holy man but his own pride and vanity lead him to allow John to be murdered

**3. Herodias** – rejects the truth and manipulates her husband and daughter

**4. A daughter** – caught up in the evil of her parents.

**vv. 12-15.** Herod had heard about Jesus and his disciples and he is concerned. There are rumours going around, some saying Jesus was a resurrected John the Baptist, others that he was a resurrected Elijah or a prophet (Mk. 8:28). These rumours, while falling short of recognising Jesus as the Messiah, go beyond his hometown (11:4-6) to acknowledge Jesus as a 'man of God'. Like John the Baptist Jesus performs 'mighty works' (supernatural). Elijah was popularly expected to come again to announce the day of the Lord's judgment and as a defender of the needy (Mal. 5:1; 4:5-6, esp. Mt. 11:11-15). Jesus' preaching (1:14-15) called urgently for repentance to prepare for the reign of God, and his healings and exorcisms brought wholeness and deliverance to the sick and oppressed. John the Baptist's death was a precursor to Jesus' death (9:11-13), however Jesus' death is seen as a 'ransom for many'.

**vv. 16.** Herod shows his guilt (admitting he had killed John) and superstition in giving some credence to the rumours about Jesus and John the Baptist.

### **A recounting of the killing of John the Baptist vv. 17-28.**

**vv. 17-20.** Herod ('King' in a popular sense, see Lk. 3:19) seems to have imprisoned John both to protect John from Herodias (17-19) and to stop the respected prophet (20) fearlessly and publically criticising him (see Lev. 18:16; 20:21). Both Herod and Herodias divorced their spouses to marry each other.

**vv. 21-28.** Herodias uses her daughter and Herod's pride and vanity to get John the Baptist killed.

**vv. 29.** John's disciples take his body and give him a proper burial.

**Reflection/Response.** John the Baptist faithfully carried out his ministry even though he lost his freedom and ultimately his life. How do we pray for those facing persecution for being disciples of Jesus Christ? How do we respond to rejection or persecution for speaking the truth as Jesus' disciples?