

Pastor Matt Kinniburgh

Mark 6:14-29 NRSV

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias 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." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

THE KINGDOM IN ACTION

April
28
2013

Notes:

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Clashing of Kingdoms

Mark 6:14-29

- 1) What from this passage and Sunday's teaching stood out to you?
- 2) Pastor Matt talked at length about the impact that our family of origin has in shaping who we are. What are some words you would use to describe the way your family related to one another growing up (distant, overly close, strained, fun)?
- 3) We see in the life of Herod that the blessings and (more to the point) sins of our families profoundly impact who we are today. Apprenticeship is largely the process of putting off the sinful patterns of our family of origin and relearning how to do life in the now available Kingdom of God.

Growing up we all received messages about the following areas of life.

- a) Talk about what beliefs were shaped in you based on how your family of origin related to:
 - Money (ex. best source of security; indication of success; hard to come by)
 - Conflict (ex. avoid at all costs; don't make people mad; fighting is normal; conflict is loud & angry)
 - Grief and loss (ex. sadness is a sign of weakness; get over it and move on; not allowed to be depressed)
 - Expressing Anger (ex. dangerous and bad; explosive to make a point; sarcasm is acceptable)
 - Success (ex. getting into the best schools; large family; lots of money/toys)
 - Feelings and Emotions (ex. you're not allowed to have certain feelings; feelings aren't important; it's okay for feelings to dictate actions)

b) How do the messages from your family of origin stack up against what we're taught about life in the Kingdom of God? Where is there congruency and alignment? Where is there not?

c) Do you think spiritual formation is possible to the point where we can actually reflect the family of God more than our family of origin (where there is a disconnect... obviously there will have been aspects of your family that *did* reflect the Kingdom of God)?

- 4) From Herod's life, we see that despite his family of origin, he showed some evidence of openness to John and his teaching. However, when faced with the head on decision to either go against his family of origin or chart a new path, he reflected his family of origin. We can be tempted to say it's too hard to change or that the 'apple doesn't fall far from the tree' and excuse our behaviour.

Understanding that spiritual formation (taking on the family of God resemblance), is both a work of the Spirit and cooperation on our part...

In what areas do you feel you need to grow in resembling the family of God more than your family of origin? What might be possible next steps?

In what areas have you grown to resemble the family of God more so than your family of origin? Take time to pray and celebrate God's work in your life with the group.

Suggested further reading:

- The Jesus Way ~ Eugene Peterson
- Counterfeit Gods ~ Timothy J. Keller