

2. The **Performance** (6:22a): Herodias's daughter gives a dance that greatly pleases the king. *22 When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.*

Herodias's daughter, Salome, by Philip - Danced refers to a solo dance with highly suggestive hand and body movements, comparable to a modern striptease. (The MacArthur Study Bible, Page 1471)

3. The **Promise** (6:22b-23): As a sign of his pleasure, Herod promises to grant any favor the girl desires! *The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." 23 And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."*

Because she pleased him, Herod Antipas swore to Salome a solemn oath to give her up to half of his kingdom (an expression meaning a large amount but with limits), words that remind us of Xerxes' promise to Esther (Esth. 5:3, 6). This gesture was no doubt exaggerated, yet Salome seized the opportunity for her mother, Herodias, who hated John the Baptist. (The Nelson Study Bible, Page 1653)

4. The **Plot** (6:24-29): At the urging of wicked Queen Herodias, the daughter asks for John's head on a platter, and the favor is quickly granted! *24 She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered. 25 At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter." 26 The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27 So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, 28 and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. 29 On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb. (NIV)*

III. CLOSE - Don't let the threats of people mute your ministry. If you allow the Devil to issue a gag order for your mouth, you'll never fulfill your ministry. We can choose to please people or God.

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Sermon Notes
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The Perils of Preaching
Mark 6:14-29

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The Perils of Preaching

Mark 6:14-29

I. INTRODUCTION - It may come as a shock to some people but doing the will of God can get you in trouble. Every time you find yourself in trouble doesn't mean that you did something wrong. It could be proof that you're doing something right. In fact, doing the will of God can get you killed. That's why we must make sure we know God and His Word before we go out and engage the world. Please know that as long as you go along in order to get along they won't bother you. However, if you take a stand for what is right some people will have a problem with you. However, they really don't have a problem with you but they have a problem with what you stand for. Your message and lifestyle condemns their wicked behavior. Deep down in their hearts people know what is true but they fight it because they don't want to repent and bring their lifestyle in line with the Word. John the Baptist didn't get his head cut off for preaching a positive motivational message on success. He got killed for preaching against sin to someone in high places. Today, many preachers aren't preaching to please God but their audience. It is a man-centered theology rather than a God-centered theology. They preach to please people rather than God. They use their members to build big ministries and raise big money for themselves.

II. EXPOSITION OF THE TEXT – As we come to our text, we will see that John the Baptist will be arrested and beheaded for preaching against the sin of adultery (Mark 6:14-29).

A. Jesus is Misunderstood by Herod Antipas (6:14-16): At first Herod thinks Jesus is the reincarnation of John! *14 King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." 15 Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." 16 But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"*

Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee and Perea from 4 B.C – A.D. 39. Officially he was not a king, but this title for him was popularly used. (The Ryrie Study Bible, Page 1409)

By this excited, guilt-laden confession, 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 (cf. Matt. 14:1,2; Luke 9:7-9). (The MacArthur Study Bible, Page 1471)

B. John is Mistreated by Herod Antipas (6:17-20).

1. The Orders (6:17): He orders John arrested, bound, and imprisoned! *17 For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married.*

2. The Offense (6:18-20): John condemned the adulterous marriage between the king and his wife, thus invoking the wrath of Queen Herodias. *18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, 20 because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.*

Palestine was divided into four territories, each with a different ruler. Herod Antipas, called Herod in the Gospels, was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip ruled over Traconitis and Idumea. Philip's wife was Herodias, but she left him to marry Herod Antipas. When John confronted the two for committing adultery, Herodias formulated a plot to kill him. Instead of trying to get rid of her sin, Herodias tried to get rid of the one who brought it to public attention. This is exactly what the religious leaders were trying to do to Jesus. (Life Application Bible, Page 1742)

C. John is Murdered by Herod Antipas (6:21-29).

1. The Party (6:21): Herod hosts a banquet to celebrate his birthday. *21 Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.*