

Discussion Questions for “Spirit & Power: John’s Death”

Mark 6:14-29 (Reading: 6:14-20), Pastor Tom Olson, Weekend of December 13th & 14th, 2025

Sermon Outline

Herodias:

- God’s Law applies to every human (v. 18).
- It’s possible to begrudge the person showing you your sin (vv. 17-19).

Herod:

- The foolishness of an unwise promise (vv. 21-29).
- The problem of peer pressure even for kings (v. 26).
- The effect that holiness & righteousness can have on a sinful man (v. 20).

John:

- The courage it takes to minister in spirit & power (v. 18).
- The cost of ministering in spirit & power (vv. 14-29).

Jesus:

- It’s possible to be both close to & far from the truth (vv. 14-16).

Sermon Questions

1. Why are we tempted to begrudge the brother or sister in Christ who shows us our sins? Why shouldn’t we?
2. When we’re the ones who need to point out a fellow believer’s sin, what can we do to help them receive what we’re saying? Why might they be frustrated anyway?
3. Have you ever made an unwise promise?
 - a. What was the situation?
 - b. What did you learn from this?
4. We often think about peer pressure affecting teenagers...
 - a. But how do adults experience this, as well? Give some specific examples.
 - b. Is there a place where you’re feeling this right now?
5. Why did John’s holiness & righteousness make such an impact on Herod? Try to think through the inner workings of this. Have you seen the same kind of thing in your own life?

(Questions continue on next page.)

6. Why is *worth* it to follow Jesus, despite the *courage* it takes and the *cost* that's often associated with doing so?
7. What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?
8. Any other takeaways from this passage or message?