

## HOW CAN WE AVOID HEROD'S MISTAKE?

- Use the opportunity to examine your \_\_\_\_\_, your \_\_\_\_\_, your \_\_\_\_\_.

Doubt *is to our spirit what pain is to our body*, it signals that something is wrong. It warns us of a problem that needs to be addressed.

- Ask yourself, what is your \_\_\_\_\_?

<sup>19</sup> *This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live<sup>20</sup> and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life . . . – Deuteronomy 30:19 – 20*



## Part 17

# The Brighter Side of Doubt

Mark 6:14 – 29

<sup>14</sup> 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."

<sup>15</sup> Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

<sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup> So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, <sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." <sup>23</sup> And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

<sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

<sup>25</sup> 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."

<sup>26</sup> The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup> and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

## WHAT CAN DOUBT DO FOR US?

v. 20 — . . . 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.

Mark 9:24 – The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, help my unbelief.”

Psalms 73:2 – “But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.”

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN IT HAPPENS TO YOU?

#1 – See it as a \_\_\_\_\_ to change your life not as a \_\_\_\_\_.

Jude 22 – “Be merciful to those who doubt.”

#2 – Doubts will drive you to \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalms 73 – <sup>1</sup> Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. <sup>2</sup> But as for me, **my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.**

<sup>3</sup> For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. <sup>4</sup> They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. <sup>5</sup> They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills. <sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. <sup>7</sup> From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits. <sup>8</sup> They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression. <sup>9</sup> Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. <sup>10</sup> Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance. <sup>11</sup> They say, “How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?” <sup>12</sup> This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

<sup>13</sup> Surely **in vain** have I kept my heart pure; **in vain** have I washed my hands in innocence.

<sup>14</sup> All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments. <sup>15</sup> If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. <sup>16</sup> When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply <sup>17</sup> **till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.**

<sup>18</sup> Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. <sup>19</sup> How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! <sup>20</sup> They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, LORD, you will despise them as fantasies.

<sup>21</sup> When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, <sup>22</sup> I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. <sup>23</sup> Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. <sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. <sup>27</sup> Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. <sup>28</sup> But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

#3 – Move \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse 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.

When Herodias’ window of opportunity \_\_\_\_\_, Herod’s \_\_\_\_\_!

Luke 23:8 – <sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. <sup>9</sup> He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup> Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.” Hebrews 3:15