

The Servant King

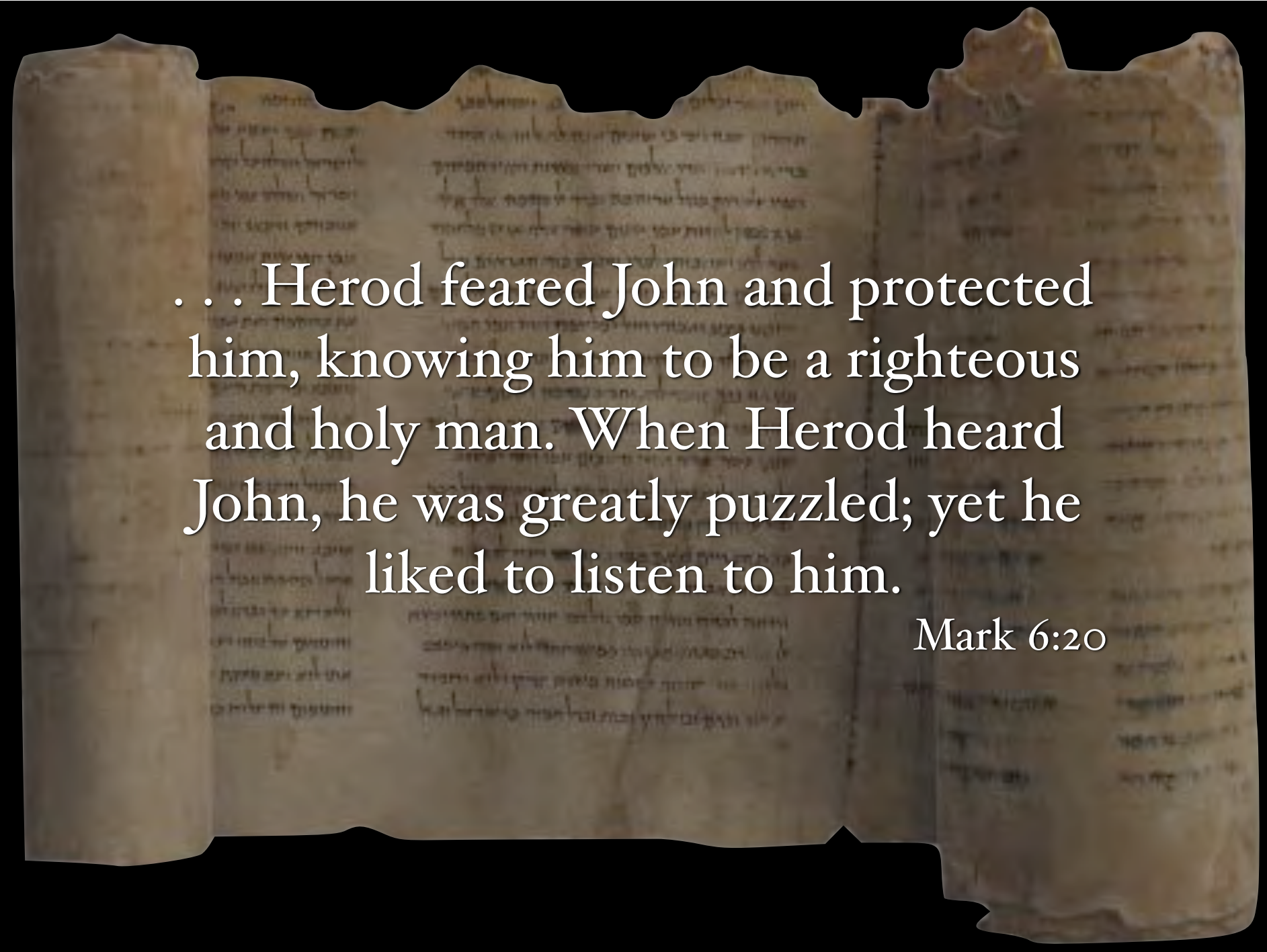


Part 17

The Brighter Side
of Doubt

Mark 6:14 - 29

The story of the *King*... who came to *serve*.



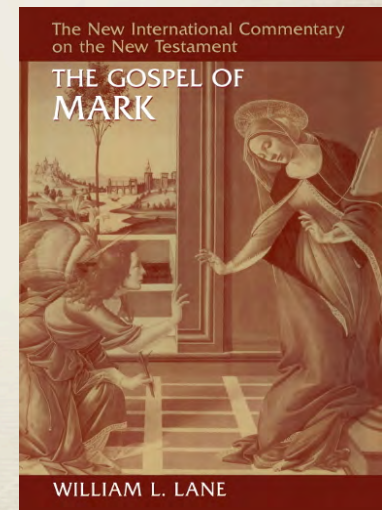
. . . Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

Mark 6:20

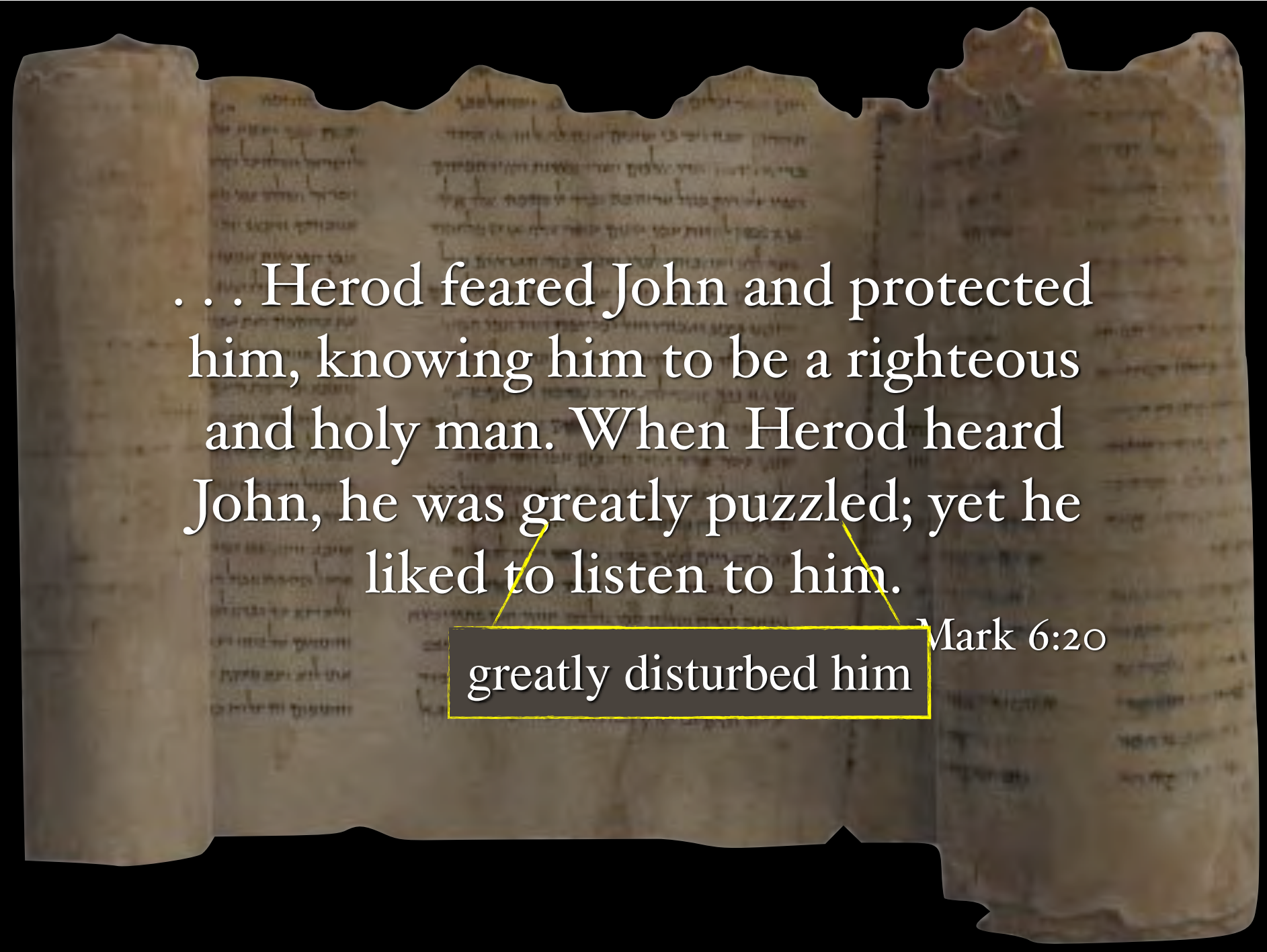
Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great and Malthace, was tetrarch of Galilee and Perea from his father's death in 4 B.C. to A.D. 39. His total disregard for Jewish sensitivity was displayed not only in his marriage to Herodias, but in the selection of an ancient cemetery as the site for his capital, Tiberias.

By his choice Herod virtually excluded Jewish settlers, for residence in the city would render them perpetually unclean in terms of the ritual law.

Augustus had denied the royal title to Antipas. Goaded by the ambitious Herodias, it was Antipas' request for the title of "king" which officially led to his dismissal and exile in A.D. 39.



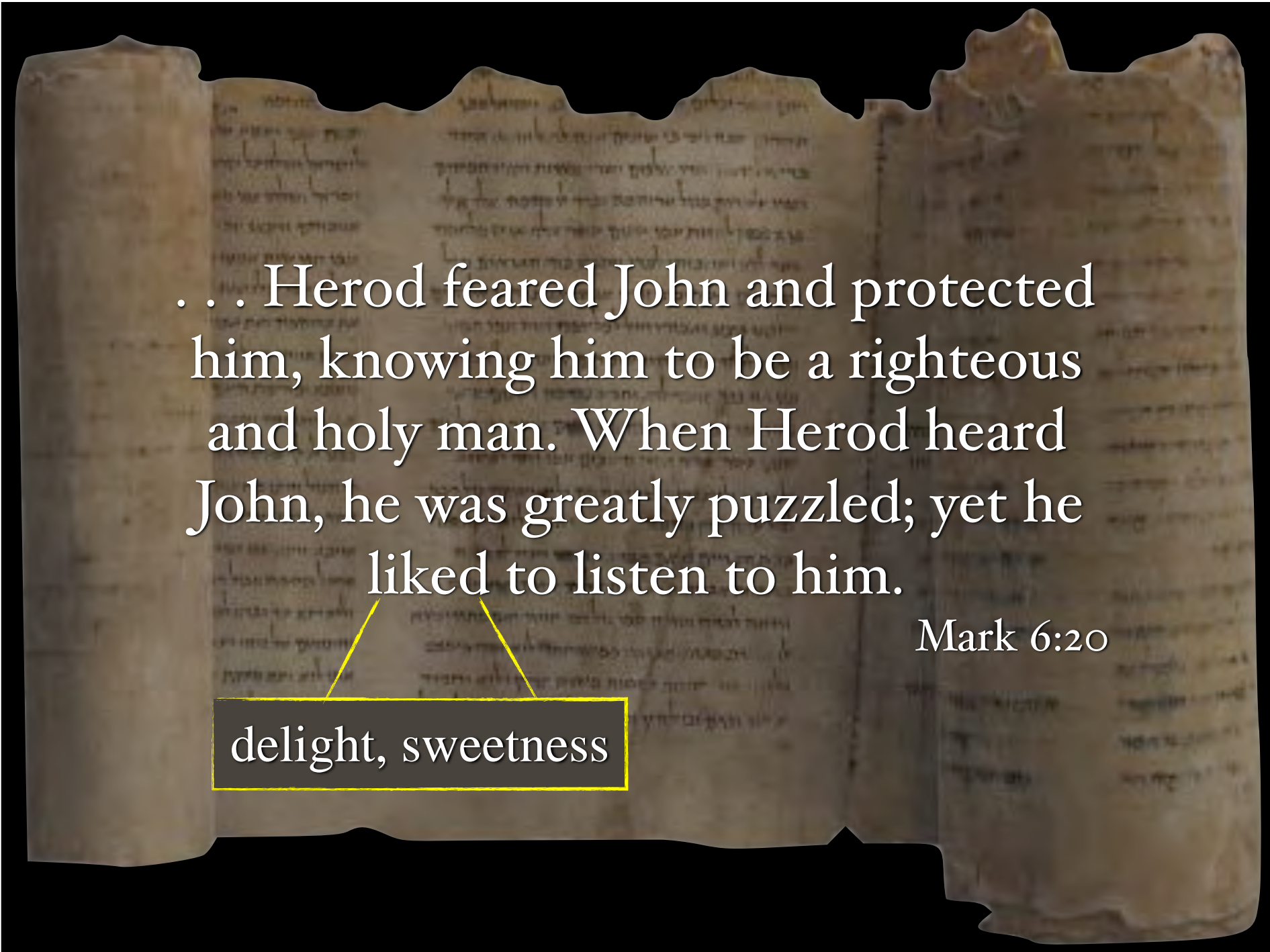
The New International Commentary on the New Testament, p. 211



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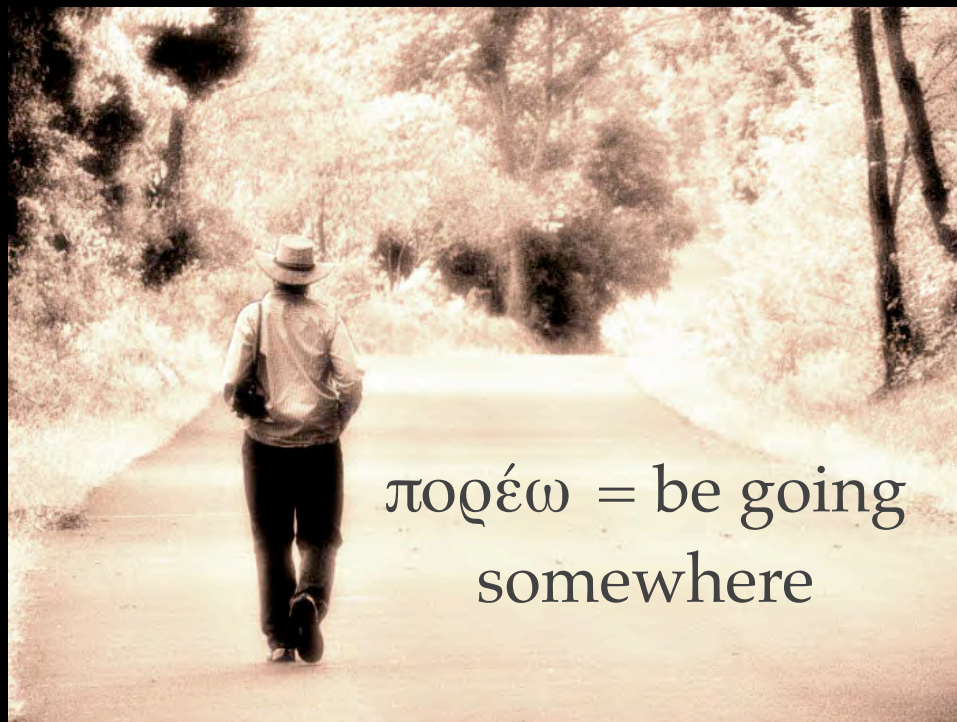
Mark 6:20



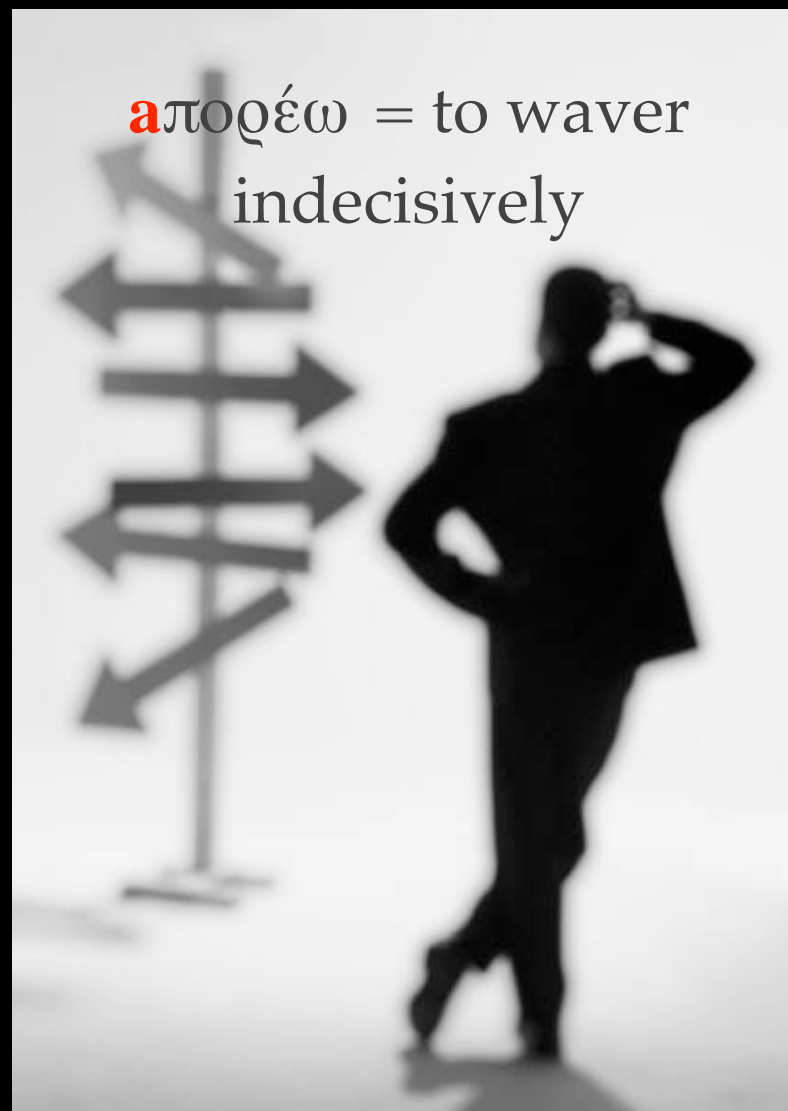
. . . Herod feared John and protected
him, knowing him to be a righteous
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Mark 6:20

delight, sweetness



πορεύω = be going
somewhere



aπορέω = to waver
indecisively

What Doubt Can Do For Us

“I do believe, help my unbelief!”

Mark 9:24

“But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.”

Psalm 73:2

What should you do when it happens to you?

See it as a window of opportunity to change your life not as a negative.

“Be merciful to those
who doubt.”

Jude 22

What should you do when it happens to you?

See it as a window of opportunity to change your life not as a negative.

Doubts will drive you to look at the foundations of your life.

What should you do when it happens to you?

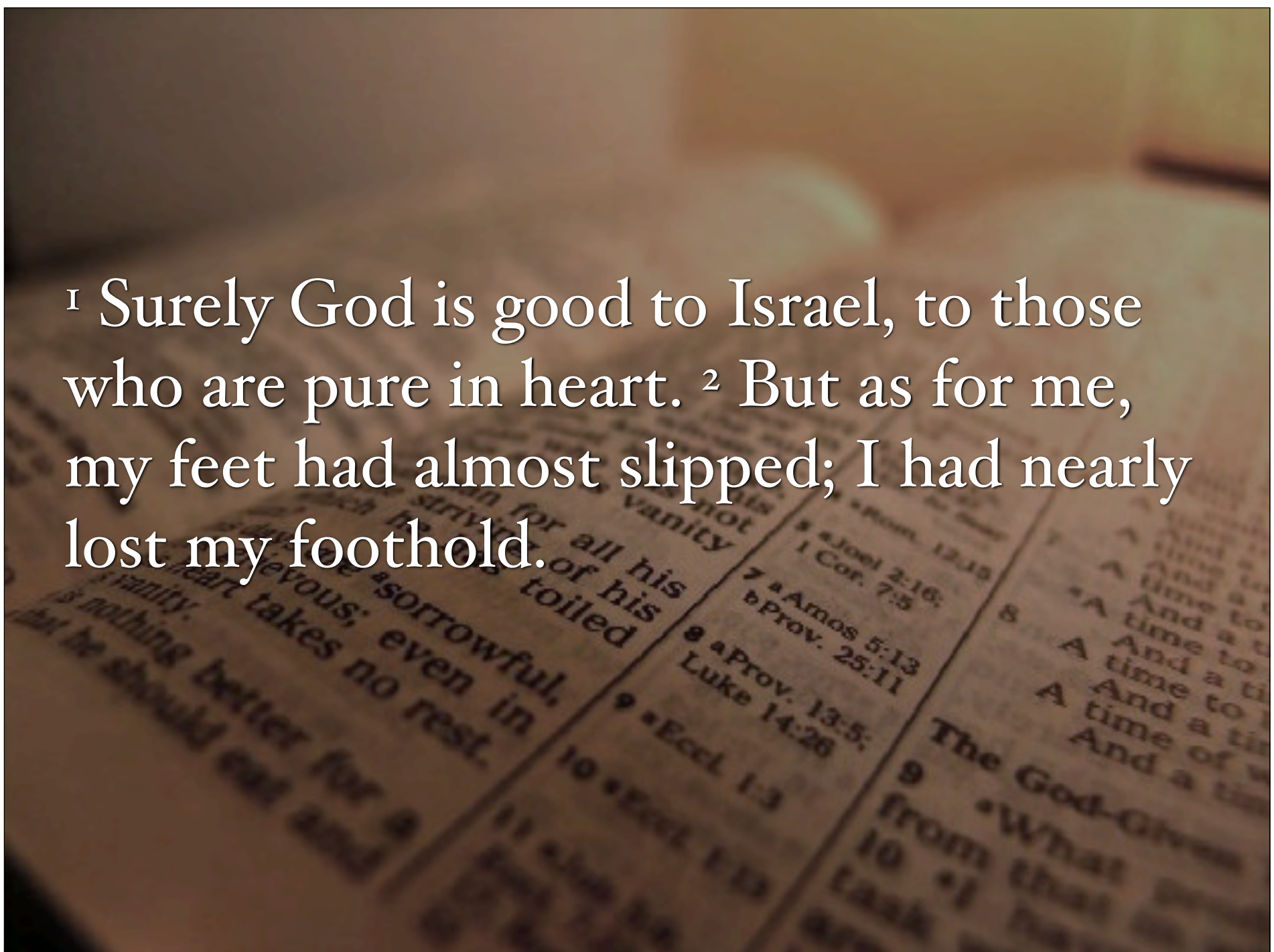
See it as a window of opportunity to change your life not as a negative.

Doubts will drive you to look at the foundations of your life.

“Everything difficult indicates something more than your theory of life yet embraces.”



¹ Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. ² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.



3 For I envied the arrogant when I saw
the prosperity of the wicked. 4 They
have no struggles; their bodies are
healthy and strong. 5 They are free from
common human burdens; they are not
plagued by human ills. 6 Therefore
pride is their necklace; they clothe
themselves with violence. 7 From their
callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil
imagination have no limits.

⁸ They scoff, and speak with malice; with arrogance they threaten oppression. ⁹ Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth. ¹⁰ Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance. ¹¹ They say, “How would God know? Does the Most High know anything?” ¹² This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

¹³ Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.

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

¹⁸ Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. ¹⁹

How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! ²⁰

They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.

²¹ When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, ²² I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.

²³ Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but
God is the strength of my heart and my
portion forever. ²⁷ Those who are far
from you will perish; you destroy all who
are unfaithful to you. ²⁸ 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.

Psalm 73

What should you do when it happens to you?

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.

v. 22

Move forward decisively . . . you have to make a
decision

What should you do when it happens to you?

See it as a window of opportunity to change
you

Do
of

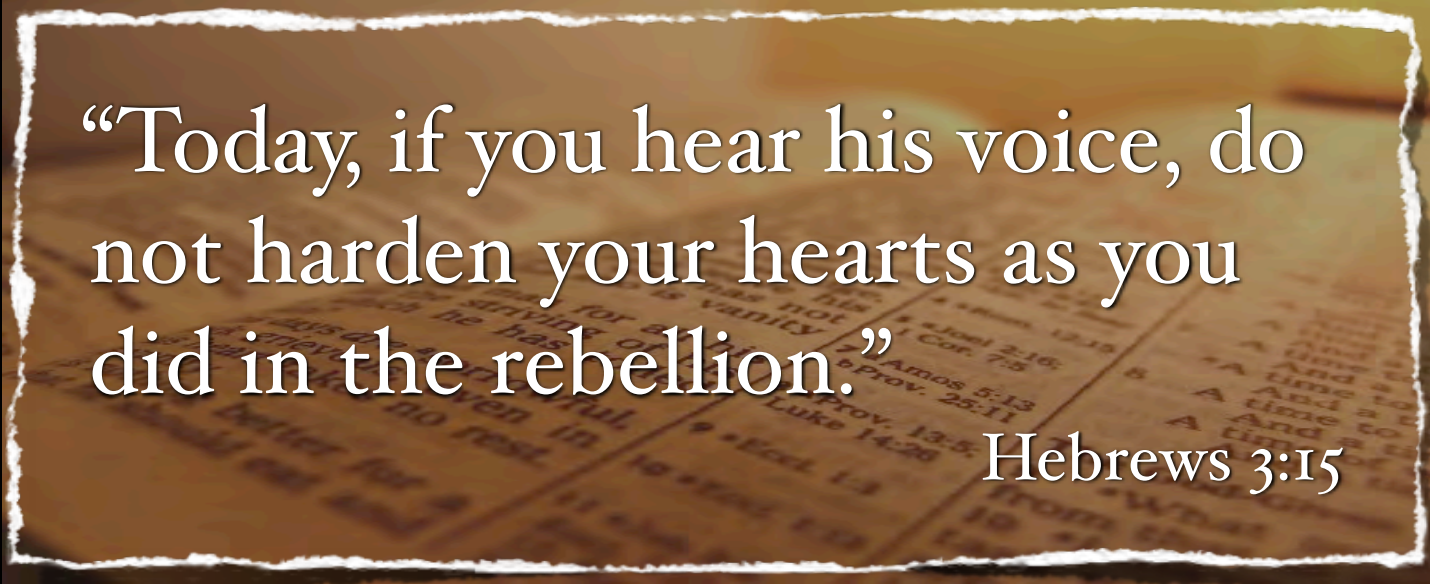
**When Herodias' window
of opportunity opened,
Herod's closed forever!**

dations

Move forward decisively . . . you have to make a
decision

⁸ 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. ⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends — before this they had been enemies.

Luke 23:8 – 12



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

Hebrews 3:15

How can we avoid Herod's mistake?

Use the opportunity to examine your understanding of God . . . your assumptions about life . . . your worldview.

Ask yourself, "What is my greatest fear?"

"Sin is building your identity on anything besides God."

¹⁹ 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 ²⁰ 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