

## CHAPTER 51

### Murder During a Birthday Party

(Matthew 14:1-12) At that time Herod, the district ruler, heard the report about Jesus and said to his servants: “This is John the Baptist. He was raised up from the dead, and this is why these powerful works are operating in him.” 3 Herod had arrested John and had bound him and imprisoned him because of He-ro'di-as, the wife of Philip his brother. 4 For John had been saying to him: “It is not lawful for you to have her.” 5 However, although he wanted to kill him, he feared the crowd, because they took him for a prophet. 6 But when Herod’s birthday was being celebrated, the daughter of He-ro'di-as danced for the occasion and pleased Herod so much 7 that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. 8 Then she, at her mother’s prompting, said: “Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.” 9 Grieved though he was, the king, out of regard for his oaths and for those dining with him, commanded it to be given. 10 So he sent and had John beheaded in the prison. 11 His head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. 12 Later his disciples came and removed his corpse and buried him; then they came and reported to Jesus.

(Mark 6:14-29) Now King Herod heard of this, for the name of Jesus became well-known, and people were saying: “John the Baptizer has been raised up from the dead, and that is why the powerful works are operating in him.” 15 But others were saying: “It is E-li'jah.” Still others were saying: “It is a prophet like one of the prophets of old.” 16 But when Herod heard it, he said: “The John whom I beheaded, this one has been raised up.” 17 For Herod himself had sent out and arrested John and had bound him in prison on account of He-ro'di-as, the wife of Philip his brother, because he had

married her. 18 For John had been saying to Herod: “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” 19 So He-ro'di-as was nursing a grudge against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not. 20 For Herod was in fear of John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and he was keeping him safe. After hearing him, he was at a great loss as to what to do, yet he continued to hear him gladly. 21 But a convenient day arrived when Herod spread an evening meal on his birthday for his high officials and the military commanders and the most prominent men of Gal'i-lee. 22 And the daughter of He-ro'di-as came in and danced and pleased Herod and those dining with him. The king said to the girl: “Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you.” 23 Yes, he swore to her: “Whatever you ask me for, I will give it to you, up to half my kingdom.” 24 So she went out and said to her mother: “What should I ask for?” She said: “The head of John the Baptizer.” 25 She immediately rushed in to the king and made her request, saying: “I want you to give me right away on a platter the head of John the Baptist.” 26 Although this deeply grieved him, the king did not want to disregard her request, because of his oaths and his guests. 27 So the king immediately sent a bodyguard and commanded him to bring John’s head. So he went off and beheaded him in the prison 28 and brought his head on a platter. He gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

(Luke 9:7-9) Now Herod the district ruler heard about everything that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed because some were saying that John had been raised up from the dead, 8 but others were saying that E-li'jah had appeared, and still others that one of the ancient prophets had risen. 9 Herod said: “John I beheaded. Who, then, is this about whom I am hearing such things?” So he was trying to see him.

(Matthew 14:5) However, although he wanted to kill him, he feared the crowd, because they took him for a prophet.

(Mark 6:19) So He-ro'di-as was nursing a grudge against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not.

Paragraph 5 on Page 126

(Mark 6:22-24) And the daughter of He-ro'di-as came in and danced and pleased Herod and those dining with him. The king said to the girl: "Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you." 23 Yes, he swore to her: "Whatever you ask me for, I will give it to you, up to half my kingdom." 24 So she went out and said to her mother: "What should I ask for?" She said: "The head of John the Baptizer."

Paragraph 6 on Page 126

(Mark 6:24, 25) So she went out and said to her mother: "What should I ask for?" She said: "The head of John the Baptizer." 25 She immediately rushed in to the king and made her request, saying: "I want you to give me right away on a platter the head of John the Baptist."

Paragraph 9 on Page 126

(Luke 9:7) Now Herod the district ruler heard about everything that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed because some were saying that John had been raised up from the dead,

[Box on page 126]

◇Why is John the Baptist in prison?

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◇How does Herodias finally manage to have John killed?

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◇After John's death, why does Herod Antipas want to see Jesus?

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