The Gospel of Mark-Christ the Servant

- Lesson 12 -

Mark 6:1-29	Your Personal Notes:
1."And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his	
disciples follow him. 2.And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the	
synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence	
hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto	
him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? 3.Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and	
Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And	
they were offended at him. 4.But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own	
country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.	
5. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a	
few sick folk, and healed them. 6. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about	
the villages, teaching.	
7.And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;	
8. And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey,	
save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:	
9.But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. 10.And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house,	
there abide till ye depart from that place.	
11.And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart	
thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in	
the day of judgment, than for that city.	
12.And they went out, and preached that men should repent. 13.And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were	
sick, and healed them.	
14. And king Herod heard of him; (for his name was spread abroad:) and he	
said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.	
15.Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as	
one of the prophets. 16.But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he	
is risen from the dead.	
17.For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound	
him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her.	
18.For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy	
brother's wife. 19.Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed	
him; but she could not:	
20.For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and	
observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.	
21.And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made	
a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee; 22.And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and	
pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel,	
Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee. 23. And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it	
thee, unto the half of my kingdom.	
24.And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she	
said, The head of John the Baptist. 25.And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying,	
I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.	
26.And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.	
27.And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his	
head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison,	
28.And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.	
29.And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his corpse,	
and laid it in a tomb."	

Spurgeon's Notes on Mark

6:20 - Herod was a great monarch; John was only a poor preacher whose garment and diet were of the coarsest kind. But "Herod feared John." Observe the good things said about Herod. **First**, Herod protected John. Herodias wanted to kill John (v. 19). **Second**, Herod respected righteousness and holiness. Herod respected virtue even if he, himself, did not have it. **Third**, Herod also admired the specific person in whom he saw righteousness and holiness. This is a step further, for one may admire abstract virtue, and yet, when one actually sees it embodied in a person, he may hate him. A **fourth** good point about Herod was that he listened to John--in fact, "heard him gladly."

But Herod had serious flaws. First, even though he like to listen to John's preaching, "and when he heard him, he did many things." He could not go to the whole length John would have him go. He halted between two opinions. He hesitated. He wavered. **Second**, though he feared John, he never looked to John's Master. It is easy to hear and admire the preacher while the preacher's Master remains unknown. **Third**, even though Herod admired goodness in another, there was none of it in himself. Herod was a fox of a man--selfish, full of tricks, and cruel. **Another flaw** in Herod's character was that he never loved the word of God as God's word. He admired John, but he never said to himself, "God sent John. God speaks to me through John." He did not receive the testimony of John as the word of God. **Finally**, it is not said that Herod feared God but that he "feared John." The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Herod ended most wretchedly. He murdered the preacher whom he once respected. After a time people dislike being rebuked, and they proceed in their dislike until they scoff at the things they once reverenced. Herod feared John and yet he beheaded him. This Herod Antipas was the man who afterwards mocked the Saviour. In the end Herod was recalled in disgrace by the Roman emperor. Such was the end of Herod who listened to John but did not heed his words.