

► Introduction

Markan Sandwich: Mark interrupts a story by inserting a seemingly unrelated story into it.
There are about 9 of them in the gospel of Mark.

Mark 6:7-13 The **sending** out of the disciples
Mark 6:14-29 The beheading of John the Baptist (our passage)
Mark 6:30 The **return** of the disciples

Mark 6:14-29

14-16 The “present” time; Herod is afraid of John whom he killed.

17-29 The “past” or flashback; what Herod did to John the Baptist.

- v. 17 Herod imprisoned John because of Herodias.
Herodias: the wife of Herod’s brother Philip.
- v. 18 John kept on rebuking Herod for taking his brother’s wife.
- v. 19 Herodias held a grudge and wanted to kill John, but Herod protected John.
- v. 20 Herod knows John is a just and holy man.
- v. 21 Birthday party!
- v. 22-23 Herodias’s daughter danced and pleased the guests. Herod promised to fulfill her wish.
- v. 24 Evil daughter asks the advice of evil mom.
- v. 25 Immediately, with haste: “Give me at once the head of John the Baptist!”
- v. 26 Herod was **exceedingly sorry**. But he still ordered John to be murdered.
- v. 27-29 John was murdered.

► Herod, the Man-Fearer

- Feared John (Mark 6:20): This fear did nothing.
- Feared people (Matthew 14:5): This fear **prevented** him from killing John.
- Feared his wife (Mark 6:17): This fear **made** him do something: putting John in jail.
- Feared powerful men (Mark 6:26)

HEROD FEARS MEN.

- His actions are all to please men.
- His praises are from men.

His sorrow does not bring him to repentance.

Prov 29:25 *The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.*

Job 28:28 *Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.*

Psa 111:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, all those who practice it have a good understanding.*

Fear God and Live!

The **Man-Fearer** and His **Sorrow**
The **God-Fearer** and His **Joy**
The **One to be Feared** and His **Spirit**

Deut 10:12-13 *And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to **fear the Lord your God**, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep his commandments and statutes.*

To love God is to fear God.
True fear of God—true reverence:
Prevents us from sinning,
Prompts us to obey.

▶ **John, the God Fearer**

- Feared God more than anything
- Preached the truth
- Rebuked sins

His joy is to live and to die for Jesus.

Herod, the man-fearer	John, the God-fearer
False profession	Audible profession
Fratricide, murderer	Apparent fruits
Fears men	Awed by God

▶ **The One to be Feared**

- v. 14 Herod heard of Jesus
 - v. 15 Some people thought Jesus was Elijah or OT prophet.
 - v. 16 Herod thought Jesus was John whom he killed!
- What is in common among Jesus, John, Elijah, and OT prophets?

The Holy Spirit is at work in all of them. **The Spirit that causes men to fear God!**

▶ **Applications**

1. Come to Jesus!

Without Christ's Spirit:

We fear man.
Our life is only sorrow after sorrow.
Ungodly sorrow doesn't lead to God.
Our death leads to eternal sorrow.

In Christ:

The Holy Spirit causes us to fear God.
Our life is worth living; it preaches Christ's death.
Our struggle is worth fighting; it preaches his victory.
Death is worth dying; it preaches Christ's coming.

2. Persevere, for the victory is ours!

Jesus was betrayed and forsaken; he suffered and died.
But he rose again, he lives and reigns in heaven and on earth!
He is gathering the elect to himself.

We, too, will live and reign
with Christ forever!

Remember the Markan sandwich?

Why is the story of John's beheading here?

It is the story of **TRUE DISCIPLESHIP**.

Following Jesus will cost you your time, money, energy, mind, heart, life, death. All for Jesus.

But Jesus gave everything to save you.

3. Live for Jesus!

The least we can do as our gratitude is to give our life as a living sacrifice.
Fear no man, only fear God.

Fear God and Live!