

What is righteousness?

What happens within a person when he/she is unrighteous?

Q9. How happy or disturbed was Herod by all this?

His conscience?

His marriage?

Q10. Here the Kingdom of God interacts with human royalty and power and the intrigues of political leadership. John is executed, Jesus is crucified, Christians in Rome are persecuted and today royal and political leaders do their thing.

What does Mark 1:14; Acts 4:18-22; Acts 28:30-31 indicate about these events and the ongoing progress of Kingdom of God?

Q12. Reflect on Proverbs 21:1 "The King's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord, He turns it wherever He will. What implications might this have for our prayers?"

The Best News Ever

A Series in the Gospel of Mark

12. The Kingdom & Political Intrigue

Mark 6:14-29

So far in Mark's Gospel, everybody who has heard about Jesus, or met him, has been asking the same question? Who is this man? They can see that He is a man, but He is way more than an ordinary man. After the increased public awareness of Jesus following the mission of the twelve (Mark 6:7-13, 30-34, 44) Jesus came to the attention of the top local political ruler of Galilee, Herod the Tetrarch.

Jesus had everybody guessing. Who is Jesus, remains a very good question today, and we should pray that the Holy Spirit leads people to ask it and uses it towards faith in Him. For Herod, his personal guess at who Jesus was, was complicated by his sin and regret in killing John the Baptist several months earlier.

Herod was Tetrarch of Galilee and Perea from 4BC to 39AD following his father, Herod the Great. He had total disregard for Jewish sensitivities by marrying Herodias and also by building his capital Tiberias, over an ancient cemetery which virtually excluded Jewish settlers.

Q1. What did Herod become aware of and why? Mark 6:14

Q2. What were some of the guesses people had to the question "Who or what do you think Jesus is?" See Mark 6:14-15 and Mark 8:30

Who or what does Herod think Jesus is? Mark 6:16

Who or what does the Roman Centurion think Jesus is? Mark 15:39

What is the writer Mark's answer? Mark 1:1

Is this an important question? Why? Mark 16:15-16

Q3. Does Herod's conclusion make sense of the timing of Jesus and John's lives?

Do people's answer to that question always make sense?

Why can people settle for superficial answers to that important question? Is it important to them? Should it be?

Q4. Who was responsible (was guilty) for the death of John the Baptist? Why?

Herod?

Herodias's daughter who danced to please him?

The leading men of Galilee?

Herodias?

Q5. Where did the plot to kill John the Baptist begin? Who drove it and why?

Q6. How did Herod regard John the Baptist? Mark 6:20

How was it then that Herod executed John? Mark 6:26

Q7. What motivated Herodias?

Who did she use?

How stark and gruesome was the outcome?

What was her heart like? Her conscience?

Q8. What happened to righteousness in this account?

Who was righteous and what happened to them?

Who spoke out for righteousness?