

## Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

### Lesson 36

## Mark 6:17-29

### Memory Verse

**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies. John 11:25**

### Introduction

Have you ever wondered why bad things sometimes happen? Listen to this story to see how Jesus handles bad news.

If you ever listen to news on the radio or T.V., you may hear about bad things that have happened to someone. Bad things also happened to people when Jesus lived.

One of Jesus' relatives was John who baptized people in the river. He was a man who boldly told people things from God. He would tell people to change their ways and follow God. He was not afraid to let people know about God.

Obviously, some people did not like the way he would tell the truth. He did not nicely or carefully share it. He would boldly wham a person with the news.

### Scripture

#### Mark 6:17-18

**For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."**

John did this to someone very important—the king! King Herod was not a very nice king. He did many things that were mean and sneaky. His brother, Philip, had a wife named Herodias. King Herod thought she was very pretty. He decided that he wanted her for HIS wife. So, she became King Herod's wife.

This was not right and John knew it.

#### Mark 6:19-20

**So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, because 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.**

**Ask: What did John do?**

He told King Herod that he was doing wrong. This made the king and his new wife very upset. In fact, Herodias had a grudge against John for saying the things that he did.

**Ask: What happened?**

Because of his words, John was handcuffed and put in prison. Herodias wanted John killed for embarrassing her. She held a grudge for the things that John had done.

However, King Herod kept him alive because he knew that John was a man who loved God. He may have been afraid of what God might do to him if he killed John.

Another reason King Herod kept John alive was that he liked to hear what John had to say. King Herod enjoyed listening to John talk about God and how to get right with God.

**Mark 6:21-22**

**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. 22When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.**

One day, the palace had a big celebration. It was King Herod's birthday! There was lots of excitement and many people were there to celebrate the occasion. Most of the people invited were special people and commanders of the armies. Everyone came dressed in their finest clothes.

**Ask: What happened during the party?**

During dinner, different people came to dance and entertain the king. One of the dancers was the daughter of Herodias. She performed a beautiful dance that impressed the king and his guests.

**Mark 6:22-23**

**When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.**

**The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."**

**Ask: What did the king do?**

King Herod was so pleased that he told her in front of all his guests that he would give her anything she wanted!

**Mark 6:24-25**

**She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"**

**"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.**

**At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."**

**Ask: What did the girl do?**

Herodias' daughter ran to her mother to ask her advice. What do you think she should ask for? You won't believe it.

Remember, Herodias had a grudge against John. She saw this as a great time to "get even" with him. She told her daughter to ask for something unbelievable!

The girl hurried back to the king. She told him that she would like. . .  
John's head on a plate!

The king was shocked. He never imagined that she would ask for this. He wanted to keep John alive, but since he promised in front of all his guests, he had to keep his oath.

**Mark 6:26-28**

**The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother.**

**Ask: What did the king do?**

Immediately, the king had John beheaded and his head returned on a plate to Herodias' daughter who gave it to her mother. This bad thing happened because of bad choices that someone made, not because God did something bad to him.

**Mark 6:29**

**On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.**

**Ask: What did John's friends do?**

John's friends put his body in a tomb and also told Jesus the sad news. Jesus went alone to a quiet place to pray and mourn John's death.

It is so sad to hear when bad things happen to good people. John was trying to do special things for God and was put in prison and killed. Some people wonder why God would let this happen. God loves us and cares for us but sometimes things happen that we do not understand. It does not mean that God doesn't care.

## Application

King Herod heard the message of how to get to Heaven, but he never took it to heart. You may have heard this message too. God made a way for us to get to Heaven. It is by believing in Jesus, His Son. If we believe in Him and ask Him to come into our heart and forgive our wrongs, Jesus will come into our lives and stay with us forever. He promises to take us to Heaven one day.

### **Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?**

God wants to change our lives and our hearts. God wants us to know Him and to know His love. God does not force us to follow Him. God waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

### **Romans 10:9-10**

**That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.